

Loretta Ensor's Oral History

Interviewers: Janet Bruce Campbell, Director of the Johnson County Museum System, & Eric Page, Caretaker of the Ensor Farm Historic Site.

Interviewee: Loretta Ensor

Date: June 9, 1988

Janet: Your dad had a butter route in Kansas City?

Loretta: Yes. There's not much to say about that I know to say.

Janet: On the butter route, he took butter from farmers and delivered it to companies or how did that work?

Loretta: No, they carried it themselves. They made the butter themselves, made their own butter.

Janet: Your mom and dad made their own butter? So he was delivering butter into the city?

Eric: Was that after he moved out here?

Loretta: No, that was when we were up there in the city. Up there in Kansas City. You know where I was born up there?

Janet: Tell me; where were you born?

Loretta: Marshall was born just north of the Antioch Medical Center and I was born on the opposite corner of the same section. It would put you about 87th Street west of Metcalf.

Janet: 87th west of Metcalf. So both of you were born in that same area pretty much?

Loretta: Born on the same section.

Janet: But in two different houses?

Loretta: Two different houses, two different locations and two different farms.

Janet: Your family was farming at that time?

Loretta: They were farming at that time and father had his butter route in the city. Every Friday he would

go down to the city and Mother would use to make jellies and such as that and send along with him.

Janet: Where did he take it in the city? Where did he go when he delivered butter and jelly?

Loretta: Kansas City, Kansas. I don't know the area there. But in Kansas City, Kansas, it was. When the flood was.

Janet: That was in 1903, right?

Loretta: You're right. He was coming out Southwest Boulevard, and you know where the bridge is?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: He went across the bridge when the stream was running full. There was a wagon behind him and he turned around to look and he saw the bridge go out of the roadway behind the wagon that was behind him.

Janet: So he got across and one other wagon got across and the bridge went out?

Loretta: The bridge went out.

Janet: That's a close call.

Loretta: That was a close call.

Janet: So he was delivering butter?

Loretta: He had been delivering butter.

Eric: Did he deliver milk with that too?

Loretta: No, just a butter route.

Janet: So your mom and dad were farming, they had a dairy farm and they were making butter?

Loretta: You can call it a dairy farm. We had some cows.

Janet: And they had some extra butter and they sold it in the city?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: How did they package that, in what form did they sell the butter in? Was it in squares, in tubs, in crocks?

Loretta: Some place upstairs there's a stamp that they used on it. Where is that stamp? I haven't seen it for years.

Janet: It's a wooden butter stamp?

Loretta: Yes, they would put it on the package.

Janet: What was on the stamp? Do you remember what the design was?

Loretta: Flowers.

Janet: Did the flowers on it have any particular meaning for your family or was it just a design that your mom liked?

Loretta: Just a design they got. That way, butter don't look good just smooth. It roughed it up and ruffled it up a bit to make it more attractive.

Yes, they would have 1, 2, and 3 pounds.

Janet: And then she would stamp it to sell?

Loretta: I don't know how they packaged it. I don't remember hearing them say how they packaged it. But anyway I know that stamp was on it.

Janet: I'm trying to imagine your dad on this wagon and taking butter around and how did he physically take it, was it wrapped? I'm trying to picture it.

Loretta: I don't know; of course it would be wrapped. It would have to be. I remember they had a big churn, a barrel churn with a handle on each side. You know what I'm talking about I expect. They had a big barrel churn that had a handle on each side and a man would get on each handle and turn it. I don't remember if they had butter paper around here.

Janet: Is that kind of a wax paper?

Loretta: It was some kind of a parchment paper.

Eric: Did you tie it with string?

Loretta: I couldn't tell you.

Eric: You didn't have tape did you?

Loretta: No, no we didn't have tape.

Janet: So your dad, every Friday took this butter into town to sell it. Except for the day that you were born.

Loretta: The day I was born.

Janet: You made him miss his butter route?

Loretta: You know that coat that hangs on the south side of the shed out there?

Eric: Which shed?

Loretta: The machine shed.

Eric: Yes.

Loretta: That was sheep-skinned lined and that was what he wore in the winter time. Sheep skin and something like canvas; it was real heavy.

Janet: Was he able to sell butter year around or were the cows not able to give as much milk at certain times?

Loretta: Had your cows that were fresh and dry and you would have continual supply of milk.

Janet: You said your mother made jellies that he would sell also.

Loretta: She made jellies; that was work.

Janet: He took them into Kansas City, Kansas, to sell to stores or markets?

Loretta: Individuals and homes. I never heard how much they took at one time.

Janet: That was quite a little trip into Kansas City, Kansas, from 87th and Metcalf.

Loretta: It was quite a trip.

Janet: Do you know if it took him all day to do his rounds?

Loretta: Oh yes, it took him all day.

Eric: Did he do it every day?

Loretta: Every Friday.

Eric: And for how many years did he do that?

Loretta: Not too many. I was less than a year old when we come down here to Eureka. I was eleven months old. Mother said they were making money then.

Janet: So they did make money on the butter route?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Before we get to your move to Eureka, I want to back up to Marshall. Was he born in a different farmhouse and then the family moved to the house where you were born? Did you know why they made that move, one farm to another?

Loretta: Yes, Marshall was born on the Patrick place and I was born on the Coe place.

Janet: Cole? Do you know how that is spelled?

Loretta: C-o-e, I suppose.

Janet: Oh, Coe OK.

Loretta: Let's see if I can get the names together here. John Patrick, does that mean anything to you?

Janet: That was where Marshall was born, on the John Patrick farm?

Loretta: I don't know if it was, but the name John Patrick mean anything to you?

I was a year, you might say, when we came down over here. We would have lived 5-6 years up in that neighborhood before they came down here.

Janet: Marshall is only one year older?

Loretta: No, no he's five years older.

Janet: You were born in 1904?

Loretta: He was born in 1899.

Janet: OK, OK, I thought he was older than you.

Loretta: I was one year old when they came down here or eleven months old.

Janet: So they were farming when Marshall was born and they moved to the Coe farm and you were born and

then they moved to Eureka when you were a year old?

Loretta: Eleven months.

Janet: Where is Eureka?

Loretta: Wait a minute before we start on Eureka I got a story to go with that.

I was trying to think of John Patrick. That doesn't mean anything to you?

Janet: Doesn't ring a bell with me.

Loretta: I hadn't thought about that, tried to get this together.

Janet: If that's something you want to think about, we can come back to that later.

Loretta: If I can get that name right, that's what I'd like to get right. He was an artist well known in Kansas City. Taught at the---

Janet: Taught at the Art Institute?

Loretta: Yes, at the Art Institute.

Janet: We're no help are we?

Loretta: No, you're no help at that! I have to go on hearsay up there, but this down here I can remember it, some of it. But that up there I just have to remember what I heard them say.

Janet: Let me ask a question. Your folks were farmers. Were both families farmers before they came to Kansas also?

Loretta: They were raised on farms.

Janet: And they were from Baltimore. Is that right?

Loretta: No, not Baltimore. Fredrick County.

Eric: Was your dad a bookkeeper at some time?

Loretta: Yes, he kept books and taught school too. Taught school in Kansas and in Maryland; that was an interesting fact. Went back there and taught his home school. His younger sister went to school to him.

Janet: So he was teaching in a one-room schoolhouse?

Loretta: Grade school. I'm trying to think of the place up here in Kansas where he taught. That has slipped me now. He graduated from Bryant Stratton Business College and came out here as a bookkeeper. He worked for the Schutte Lumber Company and Brown Book Stationary Company in the city.

Eric: He did that before your mother came out?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Was he a bookkeeper or a teacher first?

Loretta: Well, he was a bookkeeper first, because he graduated from Bryant-Stratton.

Janet: What is the name of that: Brown-Stratton or Bryant-Stratton?

Loretta: Bryant-Stratton Book & Stationary Company. You ought to be acquainted with this diploma up here.

Eric: I haven't seen that, where is that at?

Loretta: Upstairs hanging on the wall in the front bedroom.

Janet: Oh, OK. So he graduated from bookkeeping school and that's also in Maryland, the school?

Loretta: In Baltimore. I have had two cousins graduate from there since my generation. Two cousins from my generation have graduated from there. Well, have we got away from up there yet?

Janet: I'm still confused about your dad and what he was doing. He graduated from the Business School, came to Kansas City and worked for a lumber company and a stationary company. When did he teach school before or after that?

Loretta: After he came out here, probably started teaching out here. I can't think of the town up here, west of Topeka, he went and taught at.

Janet: West of Topeka?

Loretta: West of Topeka, on the north side of the river. I've been through it. Hmm.

Janet: We may have to come back to that, I can't think either.

Loretta: I got a map, when I get around to looking at it I'll recognize it. I've been through the town.

Janet: So he went there to this town just west of Topeka to teach? But he wasn't teaching bookkeeping, he was just teaching grade school?

Loretta: Grade School.

Janet: Why would he be a bookkeeper for awhile and then decide to teach school? A bigger job?

Loretta: I don't know why, but he didn't like the city.

Janet: Oh.

Loretta: That's probably why he came out here to a small town.

Janet: What didn't he like about the city?

Loretta: He just didn't like the city and he had a son just like him. But when he went back East, why after he had been teaching here, he went to teach in the home school back there. He worked at my uncle's store back there, too, as a clerk-bookkeeper.

Janet: Why kind of store did your uncle run?

Loretta: Oh, general.

Janet: General store.

Eric: When did he do that?

Loretta: I don't know, sometime before he was married.

Janet: So he went to bookkeeping school, came to Kansas City and worked as a bookkeeper. Went to this town west of Topeka and taught. Then he went back to Maryland to work in your uncle's store and then moved back to Kansas City?

Loretta: Back to Kansas City and I guessed he started farming after that. Then I guess he was too old to farm by himself, why he went back and got mother.

Janet: Your mom and dad courted a long time while they were separated, didn't they? It was a long time?

Loretta: They were in their late thirties, you see, when they were married. They were 55 when I was born.

Janet: That's pretty old for having kids!

Loretta: Well, that's the reason I have been here by myself all these years.

Janet: So they were 50 when Marshall was born?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Why do you think your mom and dad waited so long to be married?

Loretta: Why I think he was enjoying running around!

Janet: Enjoying the bachelor's life?

Loretta: Until he went to farming himself then he couldn't keep house like Eric can. He'll be finding some girl next!

Janet: Why do you think your mom didn't get married before that? Was she just so crazy about this man that she waited for him?

Loretta: I don't know. You see they grew up together. Papa's oldest sister was about Mama's best friend. They were good friends.

Janet: So the two families were close?

Loretta: Yes. They use to come out and Mama use to go out to Grandma Ensor's and stay. And Aunt Barbara would come in and stay with Mama. Mama would help her with her dresses. They socialized.

Eric: Did they have other family members that moved to Kansas?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: They did? Who was that?

Loretta: Papa had an uncle in Kansas City, that's what brought him out here.

Janet: So you already had an uncle here and that's how he got to Kansas City?

Loretta: That's what brought him to Kansas City.

Janet: Why did your uncle come to Kansas City? What was the attraction of Kansas City?

Loretta: It was a frontier town in those days.

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Janet: So your dad first came to Kansas City about what year?

Loretta: He started out when he was 21, so that would be 82.

Janet: 1882.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: It was a frontier town still.

Loretta: Sure it was. 1882, why that was early, right after the Civil War.

Eric: Did he get a job with your uncle?

Janet: When he came to Kansas City, did he work with your uncle?

Loretta: No, no.

Janet: It was just nice to have another family member? So your mom is back in Maryland--or your future mother was back in Maryland and your dad was out here running around in Kansas City.

Loretta: Mama says that he spent all of his money running back and forth.

Janet: He went back and forth to Maryland a lot visiting and courting?

Loretta: A number of times. Of course then he was teaching school and he couldn't leave the school and go back.

Janet: So he tried his hand at a number of jobs and then decided to farm.

Loretta: Went back to farming; that was what he was raised on.

Eric: Both of them were raised on dairy farms?

Loretta: Well, Mama's was a larger dairy farm than where Papa was raised. Papa's was a more general farm, but Mama's was a dairy farm she was raised on.

Janet: So was the farm where Marshall was born, was that the first farm they had? When they got married?

Loretta: That's the farm they went on.

Grandpa sent Mother \$20 to buy a washing machine - instead, she bought two old cows

Janet: Your mom and dad got married when they were 37?

Loretta: I don't know--35 or 37.

Janet: And they didn't have Marshall till they were 50?

Loretta: 30, 30.

Janet: Your folks were married in 1898, is that right?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: I'm just trying to get my dates straight here. Your mom and dad were married in 1898 and Marshall was born in 1899?

Loretta: Yes. Did I say they were past 50 when I was born?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: It would be past 30, 35.

Janet: Let's see, if they were married in 98 and they were both born in 1861.

Loretta: During the Civil War.

Janet: They were both 37 when they got married and 38 when Marshall was born. Then 5 years later they were 43--so they were 43 when you were born.

Loretta: 45.

Janet: 45?

Loretta: 45 instead of 55. Father was 55, close to 50 when he had polio. That was the days when it was infantile paralysis. Those days it was infantile paralysis rather than polio. Today it's polio.

Janet: But it's the same disease, is that what you're saying?

Loretta: Same thing.

Janet: Were they married in Baltimore or Fredrick County?

Loretta: You've been upstairs, haven't you?

Eric: No, what did I miss up there?

Loretta: What--don't you remember?

Janet: Is there a picture of the church where they were married?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Did you ever remember hearing any stories about their wedding?

Loretta: Mama had a step-mother, her mother died when she was a year old and her stepmother was dying of cancer when she was married. When they were married, she didn't get to go the wedding. As they went down to the train depot Papa ran in to say goodbye to her. When her stepmother died, why the preacher was new preacher there, and he referred to Mama as her daughter. So a lot of people didn't know that Mama wasn't her daughter.

Janet: Your mother's mother died when she was just 1?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: I guess that would be right, if you had a stepmother that long you would think of her as your real mom.

Loretta: She said the children never knew her from their own mother. Never knew her, no partiality.

Janet: Do you remember if your mother told you about her wedding dress? What did it look like?

Loretta: Yes, I use to have some of it around here. It wasn't a wedding dress. It was a traveling suit. I don't think I've got any of it around here.

Janet: What color was it, do you know?

Loretta: A shade of brown.

Janet: Brown. So it was a jacket and skirt?

Loretta: Jacket and skirt.

Janet: A long skirt at that time.

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: I know you've got all her trousseau up there. I was always curious about what the wedding dress looked like.

Loretta: I don't think I've got any of it around here.

Janet: Do you have any photos of your folks when they were first married? Did they have a wedding portrait made?

Loretta: Yes, there is a picture up there.

Janet: So we can see the wedding suit in that! The traveling suit.

Loretta: I don't know if that's what she had on in the photo. I don't remember what she had on when that picture was taken.

Janet: So after they got married, it really was a traveling suit because she was on her way out to Kansas City?

Loretta: On the way to the station to take a train to Kansas City.

Janet: Was that her first visit to Kansas?

Loretta: There wasn't anything like what's up there now. Lenexa was the station, if you can imagine that.

Janet: Just a station and nothing else?

Loretta: A hotel there where she stayed while Papa went out to the farm. He walked out to the farm and got a wagon and team and came after her.

Eric: So he had already bought the farm?

Loretta: They didn't own the farm up there.

Janet: They were just renting?

Loretta: Just renting. Papa walked out to the farm and got the team and farm wagon and came in and got her. She sat there and about froze to death. You know the difference in the climate, you can tell it!

Janet: What time of year were they married?

Loretta: February.

Janet: It would be a little chilly.

Loretta: The hotel keeper would come and throw a little shovel full of coal on the fire. She was use to anthracite. She'd put a whole bucket of coal in it. This woman would come in and throw a handful of coal on the fire and she about froze to death while she was there in the hotel waiting.

Janet: So she was glad to see him show up with that wagon? Do you remember anything she said--other than being cold--about her first impressions of Kansas? Did she like it?

Loretta: When she went back there, of course Marshall was 3 1/2, a friend asked her if, isn't it awful to be out there and see as far as your eyes can see. Isn't it hard on your eyes, and nothing on the horizon? That's what some of them thought of Kansas.

Janet: Just flat forever.

Loretta: Mama always said Papa came to this part of the country because it was so much like where they were raised.

Janet: Oh, really?

Loretta: A little rougher where they were raised, but very much like this.

Janet: Okay, so we've got your mom sitting in a hotel in Lenexa waiting for your dad to get the horse and wagon to come get her out of the cold room. So they loaded up and went out to the farm which was there around 87th & Metcalf.

Loretta: North of the Antioch Medical Center.

Janet: This was the Patrick place?

Loretta: The Patrick place.

Janet: The furniture your mom brought with her, was it brought boxcar? What furniture did she bring with her?

Loretta: And went to Texas and they had to send a tracer after it to bring it back. This table and chairs we're sitting at here, that was part of it. My bedroom set, this little stand in the hall, and numerous little things.

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Janet: I thought of a couple of things to ask you about from the last time we talked. You mentioned John Patrick and you seemed to think that there was ...

Loretta: I'll go over that later.

Janet: Did you have one you wanted to start with today?

Loretta: I thought we start back there with getting Mama out of that hotel.

Janet: Let's get your mother out of the Lenexa Hotel!

Loretta: I thought first we could go into that [train] car that went to Texas. I thought that might be of interest.

Janet: Yes, because you had talked about the furniture your mother brought with her. Yes, why don't we pick up there.

Loretta: All the kitchen furniture except the stove, this table, chairs, and that cupboard in there [all were brought by Loretta's mother from Maryland].

Janet: The one with the spoon collection?

Loretta: Yes. The cook table over in the summer kitchen. I don't know anything about the stove. Whether he [Father] had the stove, what kind of stove or anything about it. But all this furniture went, it was a complete kitchen set, of course. My bedroom set. Now of course that don't include the cedar chest. The cedar chest came off the pond bank down here.

Eric: Out of a tree?

Loretta: Cedar tree.

Janet: Oh! Oh, OK! You lost me on that one!

Loretta: But the cedar chest doesn't belong to that set.

Janet: But the bed, the dresser and the chest of drawers and chairs do?

Loretta: Let's see, there's one chair down at the barn should be worked over and could go with that set. But it isn't needed.

Janet: Any living room furniture, that she brought with her?

Loretta: A couple rocking chairs up there and in the front room. This little marble top stand here in the hallway.

Janet: And did you say the cabinet with the spoons in it also?

Loretta: Yes, that was Mom's kitchen furniture, you see. Then of course all of the bedding. She had so much; I still have it. All her pictures. Of course clothing, all of that stuff. The organ, we don't have that. But that all was in that car that went to Texas.

Janet: So by mistake, it was shipped to Texas instead of being dropped off in Lenexa?

Loretta: Yes. The railroad made a mistake like they still do.

Janet: Yes. You mentioned the organ; now you no longer have the organ?

Loretta: That curio cabinet upstairs is the music box where you put the music in, the book-sheet music where you put it in. That's where that curio box is off, the organ.

Janet: What happened to the rest of the organ?

Loretta: Dismantled.

Janet: Who did that?

Loretta: Marshall. He made a good cabinet for one of the neighbors out of the lumber. That's what that one out there [in the barn] was suppose to go to. He was going to dismantle that and use the lumber. But by that time, he had enough lumber and he wasn't worried about lumber.

But dishes up there are my grandmother's.

Janet: The tea service on top [of the kitchen cabinet] was your grandmother's?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: That's Havelin ?

Loretta: That's a coffee set. No, that gold band up there is United States, gold band.

Janet: Oh.

Loretta: But I do have a supper set in here that is a real gold band, as we know it. Had a lot of dishes and good dishes, too. Have quite a few of them yet.

Janet: Any more dishes that came from your mother or from your grandmother? Or others?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: A lot of them?

Loretta: That little stool sitting down there under the stove was Mama's father's mother's. In other words, Mama's grandmother's. Made stools for all of her grandchildren. She didn't know that she would come to Kansas. That's supposed to be walnut, but I've never seen the wood.

Janet: It's always been painted?

Loretta: Since I've been around.

Eric: What do you use that for? Just stepping up?

Loretta: Everything. Everything from kids wanting to sit down and have some place to sit, to stand on it to raise you up a little higher. It's just been knocked around since I've grown up, used it for everything.

Janet: Can I ask a question, just so that we can get it recorded. Your mother's name was Ida Hicks DeVilbiss, and Hicks is spelled H-i-x?

Loretta: No.

Janet: H-i-c-k-s? That's one you had me correct before.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So, it's H-i-c-k-s?

Loretta: Who wants it spelled Hix?

Janet: Priscilla. That's how it sounded on the tape, so that's how she spelled it.

Loretta: That's incorrect.

Janet: And your mother's mother or stepmother's name was what?

Loretta: Snader.

Janet: Snader?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Do you remember her first name?

Loretta: Oh, I can't get it all together. She had two mothers and three families that's too many to keep track of.

Janet: Yeah. But the china that's on top, belonged to your mother's stepmother or your mother's mother? Do you remember which?

Loretta: Her stepmother. That other [floral] coffee pot up there belonged to her father's mother. Now that set of dishes is a heavier set, and we used that all the time. That sugar and creamer, both, belong to that coffee pot.

Janet: So those were kind of everyday dishes that you used?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Were there plates and everything that went with that?

Loretta: There's a plate yet, and there's saucers yet. But there's quite a few dishes around here. Of course all of that was in that car that went to Texas.

Janet: How did they get it back from Texas? Do you remember?

Loretta: I don't know how. But I know she said they ate off a packing box, I remember that. But I can't remember hearing about the stove. But she must have kept warm out there, she didn't freeze anyway.

Janet: Did they have an ice box? Do you remember them talking about that?

Loretta: Oh, no. The ice box was out the door. They didn't have ice boxes in those days.

Papa walked out to the farm and got the team and farm wagon. Then came in and got her at the hotel.

That was on the Patrick place. Now you were talking about Patrick. Now what was it that you asked about it?

Janet: Well, we talked last week and you said it was the John Patrick place and there seemed to be something else you wanted to tell me.

Loretta: Yes, there is. It was Patrick's mother's place, not his. John Patrick was a painter-artist. When they came here, he was in France, Europe. Not sure if it was France. He was in Europe and he came home and he was sick there for awhile. He used to come over to their place and Papa would be out in the field working and he would follow Papa around the field talking to him as he worked. Also, he would come over in the morning every time when Mama was bathing Marshall and he would always cry. Of course that embarrassed a new mother. But John Patrick, maybe you've heard of "Brutality," the painting "Brutality"?

Janet: No, I don't think so.

Loretta: The Jones Store bought it in Europe. Evidently, that was his masterpiece since I've been big enough to know. They had it on display, the Jones Store did down there. And I have since seen one of the family, and I believe it was a daughter of Patrick's. And the city has that painting. You may run onto that painting or somebody that knows about that painting "Brutality." It shows a man, a brute of a man beating a brute of a horse. A big old horse. You note he had the reins or bridle, he had hold some part of it, the horse. And he had a big club and he was beating it, the horse. My impression was the strength of the picture was the great thing about it. I don't know about the art work of it, but the strength you see in the picture of this man beating a horse.

Janet: Well I'll have to see if I can't....

Loretta: "Brutality."

Janet: See where that is. See if I can see a print of it or something.

Loretta: I think it was, it hasn't been too long ago. I don't know if he died at that time it came out in the paper or what it was. But, I saw it in the paper. Some man, who I think it was his father, had that picture in the city.

Janet: So John Patrick's mother owned the farm where your parents first farmed when they came to Kansas.

Loretta: Yes, that was right north of the Antioch Medical Center.

Janet: And that was called a general farm?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So they had....

Loretta: They were all farming in those days, everything.

Janet: A little bit of everything?

Loretta: A little bit of everything.

Eric: You said they had hogs and corn.

Loretta: Had hogs, no sheep. Going back to what was in that [box] car, two white wool blankets. One was embroidered in blue and one in red. I still have them. The sheep that raised the wool, was raised by my grandfather. Grandma said the children had to have the wool blankets. So he raised the sheep until she had enough wool for all blankets, there was five kids.

Janet: Grandfather on your mother's side or father's side?

Loretta: Mother's side. Those blankets have the date 1880 embroidered on them.

Janet: I've seen those upstairs; they're really pretty.

Loretta: I know we have them on display up there.

Janet: So your mother also brought those with her?

Loretta: Yes, and she had other blankets too. You got a bed up there [at the Historical Museum] that came out from Baltimore.

Janet: That iron bed?

Loretta: That iron bed.

Janet: She brought that also?

Loretta: Well, that was on that car.

Eric: In the front room upstairs?

Loretta: No.

Janet: We have it at the museum. It's an iron bed that is painted white and gold.

Loretta: We took one bed out when we put in the bathroom. It just sat in the barn but it started to rust. And the time they started up, up there, I got some Rustoleum and repainted it then. Used feather pillows on it, that's what you got up there. It came out in that car.

Janet: This is kind of jumping ahead, but since you mentioned it. You said that you took out a bed when you put in a bathroom up there. How was that upstairs space altered when you added the bathroom? Was the small bedroom at the top of the steps a larger bedroom?

Loretta: No, the larger bedroom is the one I was in.

Janet: So they took the bathroom space out of your bedroom.

Loretta: Off of my bedroom. The bathroom came off of my bedroom.

Janet: So you had another bed setting in that corner?

Loretta: Yes. That gave us extra bed and we didn't need it. It was beginning to rust out there and they started up, up there, and they've had it ever since.

Janet: One of things I noticed in listening to the tape from last week is that we got a lot of information about your dad, what he was doing from the time he came from Baltimore to Kansas, all the different jobs he had. But we didn't talk much about your mother yet. So can we back up and talk about what she was doing in Maryland?

Loretta: Well, they didn't work in those days like they do today. During the busy season she worked in a milliner shop, just a milliner store. That was where she got some of her art work. Of course that was just in her line.

Eric: What would be their busiest season for a milliner shop? You said she worked during the busy season?

Loretta: When they sell hats, spring and fall. They don't wear hats now.

Janet: Yeah.

Loretta: You know, for Easter...

Janet: Then you would have a winter hat too.

Loretta: You would wear a hat in the fall.

Janet: So she would work both spring and fall helping them. Do you know what she did in the milliner shop?

Loretta: Oh, I guess just general.

Janet: Was she a clerk, did she sell or did she make the hats?

Loretta: I imagine, like those stores you used to work in those days. You did everything. You were clerk, salesperson.

Janet: Did she help make hats?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Would you have any hats that she made?

Loretta: No.

Janet: I just wonder if she ever had a hat that she made herself?

Loretta: Oh, yes. Ostrich feathers were used so much then. I have a couple of ostrich [hats], but I couldn't keep the moths out of them.

Janet: Yeah. Do you know what kind of education your mother had? Did she go through eighth grade?

Loretta: They didn't grade in those days. She went a kind of school; she didn't go to college or anything. Just a general education, you could say.

Janet: And then when she finished that, she worked some for the milliner shop?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And her family had a dairy farm? Is that right?

Loretta: Well, not as you know it. It was a dairy farm with cows. But not as you know it.

Janet: It was a farm that had several cattle. OK. And you were saying that her family and your father's family knew each other real well and they went to school together?

Loretta: And church. Father's family came up from Baltimore County when he was 14 years old. He was the oldest child. Went to church and same school.

Janet: Came up from Baltimore County to Fredrick County?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Why did they move from Baltimore County to Fredrick County? Just did?

Loretta: Well, that's about all of that until we got down to John Patrick now.

Janet: I had one other question. We talked a little bit about--your mother is in Maryland and your father is going back and forth to Maryland. I think on part of the tape we lost last week you were talking about your mother, would go over to your father's family to sew. Can you tell us that again?

Loretta: Yes, yes. Mama and papa's oldest sister were quite intimate. Mama was a year older or something. You knew there was music in both families? When Papa was there in New Windsor in town they had a quartet in the church. Both Mother and Father were in it and two cousins. Let's see Papa's sister--not cousin--I guess that was it. They had a quartet at church. There's quite a bit of music in the family.

Janet: Did your mother sing also?

Loretta: She played the organ.

Janet: She played the organ also. Were your mom and dad engaged while he was out here in Kansas or did they not get engaged until he went back to Maryland? Do you know anything about that?

Loretta: I don't think they were engaged in those days. Talk it up and get married.

Janet: Do you have any letters that they wrote back and forth to each other while he was out here in Kansas? Did they write to each other?

Loretta: I got a note here, but that's about all. I don't know where that is.

Janet: But not very much?

Loretta: No. I got grandfather's letters just before he died.

Janet: That he wrote out to his daughter, out here?

Loretta: Mama. Well, are we going on to the Patrick place now?

Janet: Yeah.

Loretta: Or to the Coe place and just leave the Patrick place?

Janet: OK, I think I've got your mother and father caught up. We've got him married now.

Loretta: We got in Kansas.

Janet: We got in Kansas.

Eric: Did you talk about her traveling outfit, was that on the tape?

Janet: Yes, the wedding suit we got that on the other one.

Loretta: Married in her traveling suit.

Eric: You didn't talk about his furniture. What furniture did he have when he got here?

Loretta: I don't know except for that chair, that's the only thing that has come down.

Eric: Where is it?

Loretta: Out there in the old cabin.

Janet: What did they used to call it?

Loretta: Bachelor chair.

Janet: Bachelor chair.

Eric: There is a green one out there.

Loretta: It's the only one out there.

Eric: Yeah.

Janet: That is the only thing that you know that he had when they got married?

Loretta: That is the only thing that came down. The rest has been destroyed or something happened to it.

Jane: One other thing that I know you told us about last week, that we lost on the tape, was about the crib that they used for Marshall.

Loretta: That packing box over in the summer kitchen, Mama had it padded and lined, used for a crib. That's a packing box; you don't know what a packing box is? That's a box.

Janet: Eric and I went out there last week and looked and found it out there.

Loretta: Did you look at that table?

Janet: Yes, that's something that your mother brought, right?

Loretta: That was the kitchen work table. Did you notice the wire handles? If you know anything about antiques the wire handles and the porcelain casters. Of course there is couple of dents in it that Marshall put in it with his hammer. But that is a valuable piece of furniture.

Janet: Well, it is a valuable piece right now.

Loretta: It's where we need it. It's what we need where it is.

Janet: Yeah. I had one other question that we didn't remember last time. You were saying when your father was out here and he went to teach school at a town west of Topeka. Do you remember that town?

Loretta: Yes, Rossville.

Janet: Rossville. That was another thing I knew we couldn't remember. OK. So we have them living on the Patrick place, Marshall was born there in 1899?

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: Do you remember what his birth date was?

Loretta: June 26.

Janet: So they were living there doing general farming.

Loretta: General farming.

Janet: Selling butter in Kansas City, Kansas.

Loretta: I don't know when they started to sell butter or how long they sold butter. Of course we were up there and I was a year old when we came down here except for one month. That covered that 6 year period of time and in that time they sold butter up there.

Janet: They lived on the Patrick place about a year?

Loretta: I don't know how long. Marshall was born there so we know they were there a year, we know that.

Janet: And then some time before you were born, they moved to the Coe place?

Eric: How do you spell Coe?

Janet: Coe is C-o-e?

Loretta: I suppose so. That's on the opposite corner of that section, west of Metcalf. It would be 87th street west of Metcalf, up on the hill. You want to see those houses you can go in there on the wall.

Janet: OK.

Loretta: Those pictures, we're just lucky enough that we got that picture of the Patrick place. The windows I think were out of it at the time. Got it and the good picture of the Coe place.

Janet: Before they were torn down. So when they were living on the Coe place, you were born there.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Tell me your birth date.

Loretta: Left there when I was a year old and came down here to Eureka.

Janet: And your birth date is April...

Loretta: 22nd.

Janet: 22nd, 1903?

Loretta: 1904.

Janet: 1904. OK, they're up there and they decide to move to Eureka. You want to pick up and tell us about Eureka stories?

Loretta: Yes, that Eureka story is what I want to get taped about that schoolhouse being moved on the foundation by a storm with the kids in it.

Janet: I know you told us that story last week, but we lost it so if you could tell us again.

Loretta: Well, to begin with, Mother always said Father would stay in the field working to the last minute before a storm broke. Of course he was there with the four-horse team. And the storm broke and he came to the house and saw the shingles flying off the house. Now this was a straight wind, not a tornado. He had a open machine shed on the south side and he drove the four-horse team in there and instead of tying it as he should, why he dropped the lines and ran for the house to see what was going on. The team ran away. One horse got down in the ditch and she would have drowned if they hadn't got her. But the school house was down the hill from our house about an eighth of a mile probably. He went down there to see what was going on just as quick as he could. The teacher was outside and all the kids were outside except for two. The kids were crying and going on. The school house had been moved on the foundation. The houses in those days were not fastened to the foundation. It's just like a box sat down on top of the foundation. And you just slip it on the foundation, that's what happened over there with the kids in it. Papa found all of them but the two and he went in the schoolhouse. Here Marshall and his chum were in the cloak room, perfectly contented and enjoying each other's company.

Janet: Just sitting and talking?

Loretta: Didn't make any difference if the world was coming to an end outside. That caused the school board to dig a cave. They dug it out close to the road. I don't know if it was ever used or not. When this road was widened, the cave was removed. The [school] house has been built into that house that is adjoining there on the corner.

Janet: What is the address, the intersection?

Loretta: 175th & Pflumm. House was west of where the school house used to be. But the school house has been built into that house. But I haven't found anybody that knows anything about that school house.

Janet: Did Marshall remember that when he got older?

Loretta: Yes, yes, he remembered that; he was old enough.

Janet: I bet that gave your mom and dad a scare.

Loretta: It gave him a scare when he came to the house and saw the shingles all flying off. There was a lot of rain and they put us both in the same bed and held pans over us that night.

Eric: Do you say that your mother's bedding was upstairs?

Loretta: Everything was up in the attic, it was only a one story house. Everything was stored away up in the attic. All her bedding and clothing. She had to take it all out, to dry it out. Then repack it.

Janet: Why did they make the decision to move to Eureka? Do you remember ever hearing why?

Loretta: Cheaper here, farther away from the city. They didn't realize though, that they were moving away from their market. There's were the trouble was.

(continued)

Janet: When they moved to Eureka they were still renting, right? They didn't buy that farm?

Loretta: They bought the Eureka.

Janet: They bought the Eureka. And they could get it because it was cheaper land?

Loretta: That's been the same way. People up here are buying down in Miami County because it's cheaper down there. Now farming, Johnson County is no longer a farm county now.

Janet: So what were you saying, they didn't realize that they were moving away from their market?

Loretta: Moving away from the market; they wasn't close enough to the market. And they were too far from the railroad. Father was selling hogs and he couldn't dairy.

That brings up another story about this Clinton Branch Railroad. Branch of the Frisco Railroad that ran from Olathe to Clinton, Missouri.

Eric: You told me about that, and it went through Morse?

Loretta: Went through Morse. It was like Bonita here, but larger. It had a grain elevator. Bonita had stores and so Morse had stores. Morse had a church and Bonita didn't have a church. Those small towns on the railroads were just a farmers' convenience in those days.

Janet: So there was a branch running between Olathe and ...

Loretta: A branch railroad run from Olathe to

Janet: Clinton, Missouri.

Loretta: Clinton, Missouri.

Janet: With a stop in Morse.

Loretta: With a stop in Morse.

Janet: So when they were in Eureka, Morse was their nearest town?

Loretta: Yeah. Just a little place like Bonita.

Janet: But they were really too far away to make it close enough to run their hogs up there?

Loretta: To do business, yes.

Janet: What other kinds of things was he selling? What other kinds of things was he taking to market? Besides hogs and butter?

Loretta: Oh, just the regular things, wheat and corn. They raised a lot of oats in those days for the horses.

Eric: For the horses? Did he sell it right there in Morse?

Loretta: There was a elevator there in Morse.

Eric: And would he have sold his hogs or milk there too?

Loretta: They couldn't take milk, because they couldn't keep milk sweet.

Janet: Did he sell produce? Garden produce?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Did the family just use that all themselves?

Loretta: Oh, yes. They used to sell plants. After we came over here, Marshall and Mama used to have a hot bed. Raised all the plants, we planted in the garden and we would have some left to sell. That was all.

Janet: Where was the hot bed located?

Loretta: Behind the summer kitchen. Let's see, we got away from Eureka again.

Janet: He was raising hogs there, but it wasn't working very well because he wasn't close enough to the train depot.

Loretta: Yeah. That's the reason we got this side of Bonita, a mile and a half. You asked about if we had an ice box. This well was your ice box in those days. And that big cistern, these are both cisterns. That big cistern down there, we used to put those ten gallon milk cans down in it and keep the milk. You could have night's milk and morning's milk to catch the 9:00 train.

Janet: Oh, OK. So the cistern that is there by the well, they would lower the milk cans into that to keep them cool?

Eric: Did they use 10 gallon milk cans?

Loretta: Yeah.

Eric: And you tied it onto a rope?

Loretta: They had made a, what do you call it a windlass?

Eric: A pulley?

Loretta: Yes. Wind it up on it; you didn't lift on your back.

Janet: I was going to say, you would have to be really strong to be lifting 10 gallon milk cans.

Eric: How many could he fill when he milked? How many ten gallon milk jugs would he fill?

Loretta: I don't remember.

Janet: Do you remember how many cattle he had? How many cattle he was milking?

Loretta: I was telling Eric today, the highest he ever milked was 23 cows by hand. Milked 23 cows by hand.

Janet: That's a job!

Loretta: Would you know?

Janet: I've tried milking a couple of times, but I can't say I'm very good at it. When did you buy this farm?

Loretta: 1909.

Janet: And when did you move to this farm?

Loretta: 1909.

Janet: What day?

Loretta: First of March. First day of March is moving day. That's what you want, isn't it?

Janet: Yeah, yeah.

Loretta: First day of March is moving day in Kansas. But Maryland, it's April 1. And that is because the season back there is shorter.

But for the schools, there was a family over there by the name of Ganders. The boys used to steal Papa's watermelons out of the patch! And they moved over to Bonita before we moved over here, the year before or some thing.

So we came over here and Marshall went to Happy Hill, District 78. And I started up there.

Janet: District 78, Happy Hill School was just west..

Loretta: Just west of the railroad track and up the hill a little piece.

Janet: I was looking at that as I left here last week and you said it was on the north side of the road?

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: And there is a tree that is pretty close to the road there.

Loretta: No, there is another tree.

Janet: So it is further back in the field, that's where the school was?

Loretta: There is a cistern there and a tree back a ways. So there is a cistern there. A cistern well. They had the well piped in there, the cistern piped in there. The well was there too. That's what they often did when your well wasn't strong enough. There was a building around it and piped the cistern.

Janet: And what that does is collect the rain water and then run it into the well?

Loretta: Yeah. Through a filter.

Janet: What kind of a filter?

Loretta: What kind? Well you could get a commercial one.

Janet: Oh.

Loretta: Or you could make one ought of gravel and charcoal and a few other things.

Eric: The other cisterns though, like these out here, didn't have any kind of filter on those did you?

Loretta: There's a filter on that one down there.

Eric: OK.

Loretta: Talking about that one [cistern] down there, I think there is a tile broken down on it. I haven't said much about it. But I think one of the drain tiles broke down there.

Eric: This one by the north barn?

Loretta: Yes. For some reason, it was coming up awfully muddy when we stopped using it.

Eric: What about the one over by the pond? How is that hooked up?

Loretta: It is to a vein, but the vein is on top of the rock. In dry weather it can stand up. In wet weather it will be running over.

Eric: OK.

Janet: So for your drinking water, you had the cistern out here with the pump in the yard.

Loretta: That pump down there was the only pump on this place when we came here and still here.

Janet: This one right here?

Loretta: That one by the barn.

Janet: By the barn? Was the cistern down by the barn, was that used for drinking water or did you use that for animals?

Loretta: We used that for drinking water too. Yes, what we used after we got this pump in here, we emptied this little one here at the house out in no time.

Janet: Because they're not hooked into ground water at all, it's just rain water?

Loretta: This one isn't, but that one down there is a little.

Janet: So that is a well also?

Loretta: Does give a little.

We went on up here to Happy Hill School. I was talking about the other day we would use to go up on the railroad and gather flowers. You know we aren't getting very far. And we used to go out on the railroad and gather flowers at noon. Oh, the kids thought that was wonderful. That railroad, I don't know what year it was built. History would tell if we start hunting for it.

Janet: Yeah.

Loretta: The first woman to ride that railroad from Ocheltree to Bonita was Josie Torbett. Josephine was her name. Her name was spelled Torbett and she was working, just as a girl, in a boarding house down here in Ocheltree. The engineers on the railroad were boarding there. One of the engineers told her one day, "Well, Josie, get your hat and I'll take you on the engine up to Bonita and you can say you're the first woman to ride on the Frisco Railroad from Ocheltree to Bonita." Josie Torbett, grew up and married a Wiswell. Frank & Arthur Wiswell are her sons. Those names are quite familiar around this neighborhood. She was the first one to ride the Frisco Railroad. The first woman to ride the Frisco Railroad. Josephine Wiswell.

Janet: Hmmm.

Loretta: That wouldn't be so very long ago, you know?

Janet: No, no. And Josephine Wiswell and your mother were good friends? Is that right?

Loretta: Yes, they were good friends. Marshall used to board there when he was starting school.

Janet: Used to board with the Wiswell's?

Loretta: With Grandma, with Josie.

Janet: Where did they live, why did he board with them?

Loretta: In Olathe. She lived in Olathe. I don't know what happened to her husband, he died. She didn't have a husband then. Frank & Arthur Wiswell are her two sons in this neighborhood.

Janet: So when Marshall was going to high school in Olathe, he was boarding with the Wiswell family.

Loretta: When it was necessary, let's put it that way. If the weather was bad or something.

Janet: Because otherwise he would come all the way home everyday.

Loretta: He had a horse and a bicycle.

Janet: Let's back up a little to the Happy Hill School. When did you start going to school?

Loretta: I don't know.

Janet: How old?

Loretta: Five years old.

Janet: 5.

Loretta: I guess we came here in 1909, I started in the fall of 1909. I imagine.

Janet: It was a one-room school?

Loretta: One room school. Eight months.

Janet: Was it stone or wood school, do you remember? Do you know what the school looked like?

Loretta: Oh yes, just like any other common one-room school. It had a cloak room in it.

Janet: So it was an eight months....

Loretta: It was an eight months. There was seven months schools then still. They also had the nine month schools coming in, I didn't like them at all. I was glad ours was eight months.

Janet: You didn't want to go to school one extra month or what?

Loretta: Back then they didn't run the schools late in spring or didn't start early in the fall, in the early days. Because boys could work on the farms. They were big boys when I started up, up here. I was terrified of them.

Janet: How many other students were in your class, when you started?

Loretta: Four. There was four of us and I was the only one who graduated. Some of them moved away. Talking about those big boys, one of those big boys grew up to be mayor of Olathe. That makes me think that, one of those boys that worked for Father

over at Eureka also grew up to be mayor of Olathe.
That's two mayors of Olathe.

Janet: That you know!

Loretta: That has worked with us.

Janet: Do you remember any other stories when you went to school at Happy Hill? I guess Marshall went there several years also, didn't he?

Loretta: He only went to school over there one year.

Janet: In Eureka?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Do you remember any other stories about being in school up there?

Eric: I think last time you told us about graduation and what it was like. Graduation for Marshall or you too.

Loretta: Well county schools and city schools, is what I was telling you, were separated. We had our own county superintendent and the city schools had their superintendent. There was a question, the country school kids wanted to go to the city schools, like Marshall. Papa had paid tuition for Marshall for two years to go to Olathe school. Then the county took over paying the city tuition. That was going on when I went, the county paid the city the tuition. Later on the city of Olathe wouldn't let the country children come to school at all. One of the neighbors went up and bought a house and put his wife and son in it. They lived up there in town and he lived out here in the country. That's the way they got around that. That's the way it progressed from the fact the city school began to draw the children. Reason Marshall went to school up there, when we were really in Spring Hill District, was industrial arts. They had industrial arts and Spring Hill didn't. Papa knew what industrial arts was and he wanted Marshall to have it. So he got his tuition paid for two years.

Janet: And he would have been in high school in Olathe?

Loretta: In high school in Olathe.

Janet: He went there for two years?

Loretta: Papa paid his tuition for two years and he went all four.

Janet: OK, OK.

Loretta: But Papa paid his tuition for two years. Then county started paying the city tuition for the country children.

Janet: Tell me about high school when you were there.

Loretta: Oh, no different then than what it is now.

Eric: What kinds of things did you study then?

Loretta: I took a commerical course.

Janet: What was that?

Loretta: Bookkeeping, typing and shorthand. I don't know what good the shorthand did me, but the rest of them did me some good.

Janet: Were you in any extracurricular activities?

Loretta: I played basketball. I've got a cup up there, you've probably seen.

Janet: What position did you play?

Loretta: Jump center; you would never believe I was that tall.

Janet: How tall did you used to be?

Loretta: 5 feet 8.

Janet: That's how tall I am.

Loretta: That's what I was saying. I don't know where I've gone to!

Janet: You're more compact now.

Loretta: Well, the only place I'm any larger, is around my waist. I can't get some of my dresses around my waist, but I can get them over my shoulders. Dresses around the waist are a little tighter.

Janet: Did you like playing basketball?

Loretta: Oh, yeah.

Janet: Was your team good?

Loretta: Well, the first year it was good. We lost all of the old players.

Eric: Is that the first year you were in high school? Did you play all four years?

Loretta: Yes, I guess that was first year, the first year in high school. The last year we lost all of our old players and we didn't do anything then. But the first year we went to league and played.

Janet: That's what the trophy is from? How did you win the trophy?

Loretta: Because of so many years.

Janet: You were the star player for four years?

Loretta: First team for 4 years, 3 years.

Janet: Did your parents encourage you to take that commercial course? Did they think that was important for you to have?

Loretta: Yes, Mama did. Because she didn't know anything about bookkeeping. You know her brother had a store, she didn't know about buying or selling. She couldn't write a check or anything.

Janet: So she thought it was important for her daughter to know that?

Loretta: She sure did. Her daughter was lucky too. Of course I worked up there at the county's treasurer's office off and on for 10 years. I learned a little bit then too.

Janet: Was that right after you got out of high school?

Loretta: Yes, it was important.

Janet: Did they have any home economics class?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: Did you take those?

Loretta: Home Ec and Industrial Arts.

Janet: What kinds of things did they teach in Home Ec?

Loretta: What kind of things? In sewing, I sure got under Mother's skin. The teacher taught things that she

had learned in college. A woman's clothes change in style and she had us make corset covers and five gore skirts, things like that. Mother got so disgusted.

Janet: Because those things weren't in style anymore?

Loretta: Yeah. Because you didn't use those things anymore.

Eric: Why were they teaching you that if you weren't using them?

Loretta: That was your teacher, she couldn't...

Eric: She doesn't know anything else?

Loretta: She couldn't progress with the times, with the period. Of course, you don't have that with industrial arts, as much anyway. Styles don't change very much.

Eric: And at that time Home Ec would have been exclusively for the girls and industrial arts for the boys?

Loretta: Huh?

Janet: Were there any girls in industrial arts and boys in Home Ec?

Loretta: There were girls in industrial arts in later years, not when I was there. If you met Goldie Cross, she was mad at Marshall because he wouldn't let her take industrial arts. She was one that worked outside and could use it. They had a dairy farm and she and the kids ran the dairy.

Janet: Did Marshall play basketball?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Did he play any sports?

Loretta: No.

Janet: You were the sports person?

Loretta: Another thing I had talked about, I went to school, is we had two mayors from Olathe with us. I'll tell you about the time the Spring Hill bank was robbed.

Janet: OK. What happened then?

Loretta: I told you about the fellas, kids stealing our watermelons over at Eureka.

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: We moved here to Bonita, well one of those boys, one of the older ones, he was going to get his money the easy way! So robbed the Spring Hill Bank. His idea was to come up along the railroad at a certain time and catch the train. It was a empty train, empty cars, going south. He was going to hop it and be gone. Well he robbed the bank all right, but when the train came it was running too fast and he couldn't hop it! They got a posse ready and in that posse was a fella by the name of Hines, who was a butcher down there at Spring Hill. He had a high power rifle that he used to kill his animals with. He was in the posse that took after.....

Janet: Did they catch him?

Loretta: I can't think of that name now if I knew it to *Santer* save me. Anyway, they took out after him along the railroad track. When the train went by he couldn't get on the train. He started up across the railroad track and started up the hill, there is some trees up there. Well, Hines was a pretty good shot. He drew a bead on him and they said they put him in the Paupers Field out here of Olathe. That would be one of those graves they moved up there for that road to go through. That was the last robbing of the Spring Hill Bank.

Janet: Started stealing watermelons and ended up stealing a bank!

Loretta: The bank.

Eric: How much money did he steal?

Loretta: I never heard. Of course he didn't go very far, just up the hill a little piece. Then another one Dudley, I can think of that name right now, was the last lynching in Johnson County. Before WWI the prices of farm products went up like everything else before WWI. Wheat was the big money maker and this fella, Dudley, went to work for a family, an old couple over at Stilwell. He was there through harvest and thrashed the wheat and stored it. We stored the wheat in our own bins then, government didn't store it like it does now. This fella, Dudley, got to hauling the wheat into the elevator and picked up the check for it.

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Of course, the people there at the elevator was suspicious of what was going on. Because the owner, the farmer he worked for wasn't coming in and was letting this stranger bring the wheat in. So, they found this old man and his wife had been murdered and the bodies had been put in a cave out there in the farm. Well Sheriff Carroll put Dudley up in the jail up here. The jail up here was a residence. They just had a couple of rooms in the back of it that were partioned off. Carroll put Dudley in there one night and sixty masked men came up to the jail and Mrs. Carroll was there by herself. She threw the keys out the window so they wouldn't get them, but that didn't make much difference to sixty men. Somebody could soon open up a few bars. They took Dudley out and pulled him up on a telephone bar in what is now Ridgeview.

Eric: How far south is that?

Loretta: Right at the edge of town. South edge of town. It use to be Dudley Street there in town. Before they called it Ridgeview they called it Dudley Street. They finally changed it to Ridgeview. Run it clear through town.

(continued)

Eric: We were talking about the Dudley lynching.

Loretta: They pulled him up on a telephone pole out here on Ridgeview.

Eric: What was his first name?

Loretta: What is now Ridgeview.

Janet: Was it called Dudley because of the hanging?

Loretta: That was his name.

Janet: And so they called it that because he was hanged there?

Loretta: They called it Dudley Street. It was a road then, it wasn't a street. One interesting thing about that, Bert Rogers was the editor of the Mirror paper at the town. He was the only fella of that bunch that was not masked. He met with them after he heard about it. Naturally like a reporter, he got there too. He was not masked and the rest of the men were masked.

Eric: They just had sheets over their heads?

Loretta: I don't know what they had, they were masked. They told him not to try and recognize any of them. But the thing was, it was said he knew every man, woman, and child in Johnson County. I often thought he could have named off three-fourths of them. But they were all masked.

Janet: You said this happened before the war, are you talking about WWII or WWI?

Loretta: World War I.

Janet: So this was the last hanging that took place before WWI?

Loretta: In Johnson County.

Eric: What was the date they did this?

Loretta: It would be about [19] 15 or 16.

Janet: You wouldn't have been very old at that time?

Loretta: Marshall got quite a kick out of that, he was in high school. Naturally, that was exciting! He got

quite a kick out of that. That was the last hanging in Johnson County.

Eric: Was the sheriff ever able to do anything about that? They didn't ever arrest any of the men?

Loretta: No, everybody was masked. Sixty masked men took him out of the jail. Funny thing about it was Dudley had bragged that they wouldn't do anything to him. Kansas had prohibited such actions.

Janet: I guess he was proved wrong.

Loretta: That's why people took things into their own hands. They got action then.

Janet: Do you have another story you want to tell us?

Loretta: Oh, I can think up a lot of small stories I think. I had the experience of signing the birth certificate for a friend who was some 70 years old.

Janet: How did that happen?

Loretta: There wasn't anybody else who could do it! There wasn't anybody else who could sign her birth certificate. She was about 70 years old.

Janet: But you remembered when she was born?

Loretta: I remember her being born.

Eric: Do you want to tell us about the quarry? You were telling me about that before.

Loretta: There is a rock ledge that goes through here northeast & southwest. This house was set on and the cistern down there has a solid rock foundation. Didn't I tell this once before?

Eric: I don't think we got it though.

Loretta: It has a solid rock foundation, solid rock bottom in that cistern down there. The outcrop is across the road right straight in front of the trailer, across the road. They mined all of the rock for the building stone for the house down here on Wolf Creek.

Eric: This is Wolf Creek that goes through?

Loretta: I was telling Eric, train is going over this rock strata and sends it vibrating. Light bulbs jump

out of their sockets up here and things move around. I told him be sure and test all light bulbs before he throws them out.

Janet: Because they just get...

Loretta: Jiggle loose. I lost a good tumbler antique in there on the window. It jiggled off the window. They used to run some wolf drives through here. You heard of those?

Eric: No.

Janet: No.

Eric: What did you say?

Loretta: Wolf drives.

Janet: What is that?

Loretta: Rounding up coyotes.

Eric: Mountain wolves or coyotes?

Loretta: Coyotes are wolves. We called them wolf drives but we rounded up coyotes.

Janet: I don't understand what you mean? What is a wolf drive?

Eric: The farmers would get together and they.....

Loretta: Go around a certain area, perhaps four miles, with farmers all around it. They would line up and walk in toward the center.

Eric: To get rid of the wolves.

Loretta: And scare up the coyotes as they come in. And coyotes learned to go in amongst the cattle and the farmers were all carrying shot guns. Coyotes learned to get in amongst the cattle for protection. But they always could get a number of them. He [Eric] has been hearing them out here now!

Janet: So the farmers would start in a big circle and everybody is walking towards the middle and shooting the coyotes as they come upon them?

Loretta: Bring everything in with them, coyotes. Some women always served dinner. The grange women or the church or somebody served dinner. That blackboard

out there in the east side of the barn has a bullet hole in it. One of the boys on the wolf drive...

Eric: That's where I've seen that before. Tell about that, what it says on the label out there. About when he shot the blackboard out there.

Janet: What is the story?

Loretta: One of the boys, from the round-up of the wolf drive, shot a hole in the blackboard.

Eric: And what school was it in?

Loretta: That was in the Sharon, but Hilltop now it is.

Janet: Was the wolf drive done in the spring or in the fall?

Loretta: I guess it was in the fall or winter.

Janet: I just wondered if there was a time of year they always did it.

Loretta: I imagine there was a time, I can't remember. I would walk from here over to the grange hall and it wasn't hot weather, I know that. But they all had to keep a straight line. With their guns, they would shoot in front and they would lift the gun over the line and shoot behind the line. They would used to get rabbits that way. Hit rabbits when they couldn't find coyotes. I think that is what happened to our jackrabbits. We had some jackrabbits around here. I think that is what happened to them.

Eric: Back to the quarry, sometime you told me that Marshall still hauled a lot of rock out of the quarry.

Loretta: Down at the quarry.

Eric: Not at the one across the road?

Loretta: No, our quarry.

Janet: Where is your quarry?

Loretta: Straight east of us. Down there where that tree is.

Eric: What tree?

Loretta: Don't look at me, look out the [kitchen] window!!
Straight east of here if you can see.

Janet: Straight east of this tree [in the parking lot]
right here?

Eric: Beyond the next hill?

Loretta: In the field, follow the field.

Eric: Here right by the creek?

Loretta: No, not that far now. In our field.

Eric: Okay.

Loretta: Yes, that is the way we kept this place from
washing away. That barn lot out there was rock
before these boys got into it and digging it up.
You want someplace to put your rock, put it out
there where the cars turn around.

Janet: Because that was all rock? All gravel?

Loretta: That was rock, you see we got a rock crusher out
there in the cow barn.

Eric: Did he build any buildings with the rock?

Loretta: Oh, no, Papa built these buildings.

Eric: Did they use any of the rock?

Loretta: I guess they used the big rocks for foundation and
things like that. In later years got the rock
crusher. Betty [mail delivery woman] will be
running in here now. All the time. She has been
running in on her own. Post Office Department got
interested the other day. Now did you have to
pull that off ?

Janet: I had to pull it off so I could read it [letter
from Post Office authorizing home delivery].

Loretta: It was only fastened at the top.

Janet: Did you have some other stories you wanted to tell
us or not? I have a lot of questions, but I want
you to tell your stories first.

Loretta: I can't think of that name of those people who
stole his watermelons and robbed the bank. They
left here soon after that. I was just a little
thing.

Start in asking your questions and maybe I'll think of something.

Janet: Okay, I'm going to go back to the family buying this farm. So you bought it in 1909. How many acres were there to the farm?

Loretta: This is 120 originally. This is two farms. You would be surprised. Forty acre farms here today, you would think that wasn't anything. But this was 80 through here and 40 lined to the east of it..

Janet: We've done our drawings last time to try and understand it. So 80 acres and an additional 40 acres.

Loretta: Two farms. In fact, Father never saw to have it separated. Like I got to working up in the [county treasurer's] office and I put them together. It's now the west half and the southeast corner. See that leaves this quarter down here. But there was a house here and house here and house back there on the forty [acres] and a house across the fence back there. There was a house up here across the road. A house up here on the hill and another one up there across the road. People were close together then, but of course not as close as they're now.

Janet: So when you bought this farm, there were a lot of other families living here close?

Loretta: Sure! Yes. Their houses are all gone now. Those houses are all gone.

Janet: Were there other houses on the land that you bought? On the 120 acres?

Loretta: No, all they had there was an orchard. We didn't have to spray our trees then. We used to have the nicest apples over there. And possums in the tree trunks. Big old trees and possums in the tree trunks.

Janet: So the 120 acres that your family bought, there were no other houses, no other families on it?

Loretta: No other houses on it.

Janet: The main thing that made this land attractive was being close to Bonita?

Loretta: Yeah. It's just like you're on a good road here.

Janet: Because you're only about a half mile from Bonita?

Loretta: Half mile this way and a mile that way.

Janet: So a half mile up to the railroad.

Loretta: There is another story for you. Bonita is the highest point of eastern Kansas. You'll find that in the records. It is the highest point in eastern Kansas. Bonita is an Indian name meaning high point.

Janet: I didn't know that.

Loretta: Frisco named it. There's no depot up there now, but they say on the railroad records it's still Bonita. We call it 175th and Woodland now.

Janet: What was Bonita like when you first came here?

Loretta: It was an active town. The fella that owned the store ran the elevator. He had built the elevator before we came over here. They were just doing business, that's all. At one time, he had a couple of blue grass seeders and gathered seed off all these pastures, these blue grass pastures. And things like that.

Janet: So that man who ran the elevator also had a general store?

Loretta: He had the store up there. There was a two-story depot and the family of the telegraph operator lived upstairs in the depot.

Eric: Where was it?

Loretta: On the east side of the tracks.

Janet: Oh, on the east side, because everything now is-- no, everything is still on the east.

Loretta: Still on the east side, on the east side of the tracks. There was a stockyard up there too.

Janet: It wasn't very big was it?

Loretta: It was good size, a lot of cattle. There was a lot of people and they had quite bit of cattle and hogs.

Janet: Take a guess of how many families were living in the Bonita area.

Loretta: Oh, I don't know.

Janet: Twenty or 100?

Loretta: I couldn't tell you. These down the road here.

Janet: So there was a stock yard?

Loretta: They had a stock yard.

Janet: And depot.

Loretta: The depot was over on the east side of the railroad track but south of where the store up there is. The stores were farther to the north than the depot.

Janet: And it was a two-story?

Loretta: Two story [depot]. The freight office and passenger were downstairs. And the telegraph operator. Upstairs the family lived.

Janet: Where was the stockyard in the relationship to the depot? Right next to it?

Loretta: To the north.

Janet: So it was the depot, the stockyard and the store. Is that how it ran?

Loretta: No, the store was across the road.

Janet: The store is on.....

Loretta: The east side of the road.

Janet: And the depot?

Loretta: Was on the west side of the road.

Janet: The depot and stockyard were on the west side?

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: And the store was on the east side?

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: Were there any other businesses in Bonita at that time?

Loretta: No, just what was related to the farmers. Just a regular farm neighborhood.

Eric: How many houses were there?

Loretta: Ganter's, my golly I'm starting to see their house. Their house is gone. Ganter's house is gone.

Janet: Ganter was the guy who robbed the watermelons?

Loretta: G-a-n-t-e-r I think was the way it was spelled.

Janet: What was his first name, do you remember?

Loretta: Mary was the girl that was in my class.

Janet: Sometimes when you can't think of something, it slips up on you later.

Loretta: But that house is gone.

Janet: And they lived in Bonita?

Loretta: The house here on the south side is gone. But the only house that was built there is where Russell's live. That house has been built there in later years.

Janet: So you were about five years old when you moved here.

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: What buildings were on the property when your family moved here? You said your dad built some of them. What buildings were here when you came here?

Loretta: The summer kitchen, the house, the peg barn, the center part of the cow barn and the old cabin.

Janet: Where was the old cabin at that time?

Loretta: Right where it is now.

Janet: It had already been moved there?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: But it had originally been somewhere else?

Loretta: Down in front of the barn.

Janet: In front of the cattle barn?

Loretta: No, this barn.

Janet: In front of the peg barn? Kind of out here in the parking lot?

Loretta: No, down here on the west side of the peg barn.

Janet: Where cars turn around in that area?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So it hasn't been moved very far!

Loretta: I knew the fella who built the center part of that cow barn.

Janet: What was his name?

Loretta: I wouldn't know that. He was the veterinarian of Spring Hill.

Janet: He was a vet in Spring Hill?

Loretta: Yes. When I knew him he was a vet at Spring Hill.

Eric: Somewhere I saw, who is Ed Smith? Was that the name?

Loretta: He's got it. Yes. Where did you see that?

Eric: Someplace or I heard something.

Loretta: That's it.

Janet: So Ed Smith was a veterinarian and...

Loretta: Built the center part of that barn and moved the old cabin up where it is.

Janet: And he owned this land?

Loretta: Yes, he owned the place.

Janet: Your family bought it from Ed Smith?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Who did you buy it from?

Loretta: They lived here nine years. Maybe I'd better not say it in front of that [tape recorder], I don't think they drove a nail while they were here.

Eric: How many kids did they have?

Loretta: Just eleven.

Janet: Eleven?!!

Loretta: All at once.

Eric: You told me before what the farm looked like when you bought it. You want to tell them?

Loretta: Couldn't keep a pig or cow or anything else in.

Eric: Were the fences in the bad shape?

Loretta: Everything. No paint. The buildings will soon look like when we came here, if it keeps on.

Janet: So if the farm was in such bad shape, why did your dad want to buy it? A farm that was run down? Cheap?

Loretta: That makes it cheaper. He lost it.

Janet: He couldn't pay taxes on it?

Loretta: Couldn't pay for the place. Couldn't pay the mortgage.

Janet: I see. So your dad bought it from the bank.

Loretta: Of course the place deteriorated and so the value of it had gone down.

Janet: So the Holcombs lived here for 9 years and Ed Smith...

Loretta: He was there before.

Janet: So the Holcombs bought it from Ed Smith. So Ed Smith was the one who did all the building.

Loretta: Yes, he fixed it up some.

Janet: So the house was here, the summer kitchen, the peg barn...

Loretta: The house didn't look anything like it does now.

Janet: What did it look like then? What kind of changes has your family made?

Loretta: Put on the radio room, the front porch, the back porch and the bay window.

Janet: So it pretty much was a square house.

Loretta: That's the kind of house it was. One of the.....
What kind of house do you call it? You ought to know that.

Janet: I'm not sure what you are asking.

Loretta: Kind of house, what kind of building did they call the house?

Eric: It was square.

Loretta: No, it has a name, the style of house.

Janet: The Italianate?

Loretta: Style of house.

Janet: Italianate, is that the word you're looking for?

Loretta: No. The style of house Then do you know there is another house built almost like it. Bill Eisenhower's house was built almost like it. But it was built up on the other side of the stairs. See these stairs are built up against the wall. Eisenhower's has a room on the other side of the stairs. It is a larger house.

Janet: So it is one room wider?

Loretta: There is a name for them. You're not an architect?

Janet: So it was pretty much a square house; do you remember which part was added first?

Loretta: The back porch.

Janet: The back porch was put on first?

Eric: Was there a porch on it at all?

Loretta: No, of course not. But we had two big soft maple trees, one on each side of the summer kitchen. In the meat house, have you been in it? There is a trunk of one of those trees that we used for a chopping block. You've been in there, haven't you? We used the trunk of that tree for a chopping block.

Eric: The little building up here?

Loretta: Yeah.

Eric: Is a meat house?

Loretta: Meat house. Where they put meat. Not a smoke house. You know what a smoke house would be, well this is not a smoke house, is the only difference.

Janet: So once the meat was cured, you hung it in there?

Loretta: Or winter time you could put it in there.

Janet: And that was your chopping block?

Loretta: That tree, that tree trunk is our chopping block. You know a butcher has a block that he chops on.

Janet: Yes. So that soft maple tree that was there, became your chopping block?

Loretta: There were limbs all over the house; Father about had a spell until he could "dehorn" it, as he called it. Cut those limbs off so they wouldn't come down on the house.

Janet: Was the meat house there when you bought the farm or did your dad build that?

Loretta: It was here. I don't know who built that summer kitchen. All I know about that summer kitchen is Holcombs used it. They did all their cooking in it in the summer time. That's all I can remember about that summer kitchen.

Janet: Did your mom cook out there, in the summer kitchen?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Why did she not want to?

Loretta: Too much work.

Janet: To go back and forth?

Loretta: Sure.

Janet: How did your family use that building?

Loretta: Milk house and wash house.

Janet: What do you mean that you used it as a milk house? What does that mean?

Loretta: Took care of our milk over there. Took the milk in and separated it. There were separators over there that separated it. All the cream cans, all those ten gallon milk cans got washed over there.

Eric: Did you make butter in there? In a churn?

Loretta: I made butter pretty near every place!

Janet: Did your family sell butter from here? Or did you just sell the raw milk?

Loretta: No, we didn't sell any butter from here.

Janet: So you just made butter for the family?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Did they make you do it or did they make Marshall do it?

Loretta: Oh, we all did.

Eric: You shared?

Loretta: Marshall didn't do it.

Janet: What were your chores and then what were Marshall's chores on the farm?

Loretta: Well, he had to take care of the horses, that was his job. He didn't do much milking.

Eric: Where were the horses kept?

Loretta: South side of the peg barn. There is another story.

Janet: See, and you didn't think you had too many stories!

Loretta: I was going to get up and get a drink. I don't know if I will or not!

Janet: Yes, go ahead.

Loretta: Why I never told anybody what happened to my eye. We were talking about Marshall riding a horse and a bicycle to Olathe High School. Papa planted an orchard out there where the dog is and Marshall wanted to put his horses in there. Put his riding horse in the yard here. Saved mowing the yard. We had geese at that time. Oh, yes, we strung up barbed wire between the yard and the orchard. Keep

the horse out of the orchard, of course. We had geese that time and they were out in the grove. And once in awhile a chicken would get in the goose pen. The geese will flock 'em and kill them. It was my work to rescue the chicken when the goose got a hold of it. At this particular time, after they put that wire up there to keep the horse out of the orchard, I took out here from the house going diagonally across the orchard. I didn't see that wire and I didn't think about it. As I just got in front of it, I saw it and got my hand up. Father was the one who straightened this eye together. Mama was always provoked at herself that she didn't make the doctor take it open and he could've put a better shape to the eye, than it is. Father did that just the way it is and she said blood was every place. I guess they were scared too.

Janet: So it just cut the skin by your eye or did it get in the eye itself?

Loretta: No, it didn't cut the eye proper. It just cut my face. Cut clear back to my ear. You don't see it on my ear anymore.

Janet: So you had it cut all the way down to your ear?

Loretta: Yes. Cut that whole side, just laid it opened.

Eric: So you didn't get your hand up?

Loretta: And see it quick enough.

Janet: Because you were running, is that why it cut it so bad?

Loretta: I was running like a kid can run.

Janet: Were you just a little kid at that time, just a little girl?

Loretta: Well, Marshall was in high school, so I wasn't very big.

Janet: You were what, 10 or 11?

Loretta: Probably something like that. But Father did such a good job of pushing that together that it don't show now like it used to. That's how that happened. The ole horse was out here mowing the yard.

Janet: So you had the barbed wire run between the yard and the orchard? Where the fence is now?

Loretta: Where the fence is now. They just strung a wire, one wire up there, you know. I wasn't used to it being there and I took out there to the geese after the chickens.

Janet: How many chickens did you have to take care of?

Loretta: The highest I think we ever had was 350, was the most we raised.

Janet: That is a lot of chickens. Did you sell the eggs?

Loretta: Oh, we sold eggs and hatching eggs. That's where the money was.

Janet: The hatching eggs?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: What are hatching eggs? I don't know very much about chickens. Were they eggs that had been fertilized?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: How do you know they're fertilized?

Loretta: A rooster in the yard!

Eric: Well, then all the eggs aren't fertilized, are they?

Loretta: Yeah, if you have enough roosters. You have to have so many roosters to so many hens.

Eric: All the eggs are automatically fertilized?

Loretta: If that's what you want to call it, automatic.

Laughter

Janet: So all eggs are hatching eggs or could be hatching eggs? We're both lost here! So if you put a rooster in there.....

Loretta: You better remember that's on [tape recorder].

Janet: That's okay, I'll be dumb on tape.

Loretta: No, you have so many hens to a rooster. Just turn them out in the flock.

Eric: I'm just confused, because we've hatched eggs before too. If you put eggs in an incubator they're not all going to hatch. Doesn't that mean some of them aren't fertilized?

Loretta: Yes. They aren't all fertile.

Eric: Okay.

Janet: How do you know which eggs you can sell as hatching eggs?

Loretta: You get the shape too, some crazy shape.

(continued)

Eric: So that they're real little ones or real big ones.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So you would have 350 chickens and then you would gather all these eggs and you would sell these eggs to other farmers to hatch for their chickens?

Loretta: Also to the hatchery. A couple of hatcheries.

Janet: In Olathe?

Loretta: Well, in Olathe, Kansas City, and one over here in Ocheltree.

Janet: Then the hatchery buys the eggs, then they hatch them?

Loretta: They have their own incubators.

Janet: Then they sell the pullets to farmers?

Loretta: They sold chickens.

Janet: Did a hatchery sell the baby chickens to other farmers or did they raise them to full-grown?

Loretta: They raised them to sell, they hatched them to sell. That is what their business was. You would have a big hatchery and big incubators. It was all you could do, was to take care of them. Eggs have to be turned.

Janet: So taking care of the chickens was your job? Or was that Marshall's job? Was that woman's work?

Loretta: That was woman's work, yes.

Janet: Gosh, if you had 350 chickens, that is job.

Eric: Did they all fit in the hen house?

Loretta: Yes, we had that many in the hen house.

Janet: The shelter house is the building we're talking about now?

Loretta: Yes. Of course, we had brooder down here.

Janet: What is the difference between a hen house & a brooder?

Loretta: You better straighten that out!

Janet: Well, my mom and dad used to have chickens....

Loretta: A brooder is a brooder! That's a cover.

Eric: For the baby chicks?

Loretta: You can have it for the baby pigs, for that matter.

Janet: So the little house that is out in the orchard...

Loretta: That is where we kept them. Put the little chickens out there.

Janet: That is called a brooder?

Loretta: A brooder house!

Janet: So the little one is the brooder and that is for the babies, the baby chickens. Well, I'm showing how dumb I am here!

Eric: Well, I thought I knew too! But I don't.

Loretta: I don't explain myself very well. Well, the hen house and the brooder house you can cover up with two chicken houses. You know about our brooder, don't you? Our brooders?

Eric: No, I don't think I know either.

Loretta: You've never seen that?

Eric: What is the brooder then? Is that the metal thing you're talking about?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Okay, there is one of those out there in the shed.

Janet: The metal dome?

Eric: Yes.

Loretta: Where is the one that was up at the

Janet: Yeah, we still have that one up there at the Museum too.

Eric: That is called a brooder?

Loretta: Yes. A chicken brooder.

Eric: Did you put that inside...

Loretta: Inside the house.

Eric: Okay.

Janet: So inside the shelter house or inside this other house?

Loretta: Brooder house.

Eric: Inside the brooder house. Where the baby chicks are.

Loretta: That is a brooder house, put the brooder in there for the baby chicks.

Janet: What do you do with the brooders? Is that where you feed them or what?

Loretta: Well, you know you have to keep a baby warm just like your babies. Then you feed them, feed & water in there for them. Teach them to eat.

Janet: So the metal brooder...

Loretta: That's the hover; that's the ole hen! That's the ole hen sitting on them.

Janet: Okay, the brooder is the hen to them.

Loretta: Yeah, the brooder is the hen. But it is in the brooder house or chicken house.

Janet: So you had food and water both in the brooder and is there some source of heat?

Loretta: Out at the edge of the brooder. You could put it around the edge of the brooder. You don't have to have it under the brooder.

Janet: Is there some kind of heat in the brooder, like a light bulb? Or something to keep them warm?

Loretta: Oh, yeah.

Janet: Was it a light bulb or was it a kerosene heater?

Loretta: Kerosene, because really it's a kerosene stove!

Janet: A brooder is a kerosene stove and you have the food and water there too.

Loretta: Around it, yes.

Eric: Okay, I didn't know that.

Janet: We're learning all about our chicken industry here!

Loretta: You know about brooders for pigs, don't you?

Eric: No, my grandfather never had anything quite like that. He always had a light or something.

Janet: So you would have your brooder set inside the brooder house?

Loretta: See, the brooder would hold the heat down.

Janet: Okay.

Loretta: Reflect it.

Janet: So when the babies are hatched, the little bitty babies are in there, to learn to eat and stay warm. That is where you keep them.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Your bigger hens and roosters and stuff are living in the chicken house.

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: The chickens that you were raising, were they just to keep your own supply up or did you sell some too?

Loretta: Oh, no, we sold young chickens. Fryers.

Eric: Did you butcher them here before you sold them?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Just sold them alive?

Loretta: Just sell them on the hoof.

Janet: On the hoof!

Loretta: You've seen a chicken coop, haven't you? Where you put chickens in to ship them?

Eric: On a truck?

Janet: What do you call it, a chicken what?

Loretta: Coop.

Janet: Coop, okay.

Loretta: Put chickens in to send them. I don't know if the truck loads of chickens go by now. They're going into the city. A truckload of chickens.

Janet: They're wire cage things, right?

Loretta: Yeah, you've seen those go into the city. He is too young for that!

Janet: So that is how you would sell them, by putting them in chicken coops?

Loretta: We would sell them to somebody in town. Somebody in town would buy them and ship them into the city.

Janet: So you sold both the hatching eggs and the young fryers.

Loretta: Yes. Of course, we would sell the old hens. We don't keep them forever.

Janet: Bring in the young new chicks! Where was your chicken yard? Did the chickens just kind of walk around.

Loretta: The dog is in the one the young ones stayed in.

Janet: Was that also your orchard too?

Loretta: Yes. The chickens were in the orchard.

Janet: Where were the hens and roosters?

Loretta: They were in the hen house and you could turn them out in the yard.

Janet: They were OK without a fence?

Loretta: They would know their way home.

Janet: They would always come back in the evening and never have to be fed, just the babies [had to be fed]?

Loretta: Yes. At that particular time when those geese were out here, some ole chicken hen would go out there where the geese were and they would flop her.

Janet: Why did you keep geese?

Loretta: We have a pond down here.

Janet: So they were just here, it wasn't something you raised.

Loretta: No, we were raising them.

Janet: Raising them to eat?

Loretta: To sell. I don't think we ever did kill one.

Eric: How many geese did you have?

Loretta: I don't remember, probably three hens. Two or three hens.

Janet: If you have 350 chickens, and chickens lay eggs everyday, mostly?

Eric: Yeah.

Loretta: Unless they get knocked off and they don't lay any.

Janet: Did you have to go out and gather the eggs everyday? Was that your job also?

Loretta: Sure.

Janet: How many eggs would you gather everyday? I mean, if you've got 350 chickens, you've got a bundle of them.

Loretta: Oh, I don't know. Handled 30 dozen crates.

Eric: Where are all of those crates? I've seen one crate out here.

Loretta: I think there is one down in the basement too. That has been a couple of years ago.

Janet: You gathered the eggs from the chickens everyday and then if you were going to sell some to the hatchery, how often did you have to take them to the hatchery? Once a week or every evening?

Loretta: Once a week.

Janet: Was there a day you always went to the hatchery?

Loretta: Anyday they wanted them.

Janet: Oh, so it wasn't like every Friday you took them to the hatchery or something.

Loretta: You didn't set your own time, because they were the ones that were buying them.

Janet: So did they call you and tell you when they wanted them?

Loretta: We had that schedule, every Friday or every Monday, something like that.

Janet: So did you raise chickens the whole time you were here on the farm?

Loretta: Oh, yes, we've always had chickens.

Janet: That was always one of your jobs?

Loretta: That was one of the jobs.

Janet: When did you have most of them? You said the most you ever had was 350, when was your peak time? What years? Like, when you first moved here or in the thirties?

Loretta: When I got big enough to help with the work. Marshall helped with the farming. I helped with the house. Mother and Father pretty much did the dairying.

Janet: Are you getting tired, because we can quit?

Loretta: I can't think of anything more!

Janet: I can think of some more questions, but I didn't want to wear you out.

Loretta: Keep on a hollering!

Janet: OK. What kind of fruit trees did you have in the orchard?

Loretta: All the kinds. General apples, pears, peaches, and cherries.

Janet: A little bit of everything.

Loretta: You didn't have to spray in those days like you do now. It's the thing now.

Janet: And did you grow just enough fruit for the family to use?

Loretta: We had blackberries, raspberries, and strawberries.

Janet: Out here in the orchard?

Loretta: No, they weren't in the orchard.

Janet: Where were they?

Loretta: Raspberries and blackberries were out here. The strawberries were in the garden.

Eric: Raspberries and strawberries, you told me before, but to get it on tape, west of the house here?

Loretta: Yes, the raspberries and blackberries.

Eric: And was all of that yard covered?

Loretta: Not the whole yard, but that one area between the fence and the shrubbery over here.

Janet: The fence here [around orchard] and the shrubbery here [west of the house]?

Eric: No, the fence running north and south.

Loretta: Over by the cedar trees.

Eric: Did you have a row of blackberries or raspberries? Or were they just scattered?

Loretta: Rows cultivated and trimmed. They were cultivated, not volunteers or wild ones, whatever you call some of these.

Janet: I'm still not clear where some of these were.

Loretta: Over here west of the house.

Janet: Just straight west?

Loretta: From the catalpa tree over to the cedar trees.

Eric: Like where the garden is and the rhubarb?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Oh, okay.

Eric: Even further to the lilac bushes?

Loretta: Run clear to the road.

Janet: All the way down?

Eric: That is a lot of blackberries!

Loretta: Are you telling me!!

Janet: Was that another one of Loretta's jobs, to pick the blackberries?

Loretta: Oh, yes, we picked blackberries and raspberries. Then you had to can them.

Janet: I was going to ask you if you canned them and made jellies. How did you save them? How did you preserve them?

Loretta: Get an open kettle or pressure cooker. Mama always liked a pressure cooker because it always kept them so ^{whole} cold and nice. The quickest way is just an open kettle.

Janet: Did you make them as jellies too?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: Did you have a favorite jelly?

Loretta: No, just liked grape jelly. There is a jar of strawberry preserves that a neighbor sent the other day.

Janet: Did you ever make blackberry wine?

Loretta: No, I don't think we ever did!

Janet: Never got into making wine?

Loretta: No.

Eric: There are wine bottle out in the barn and part of a still?

Loretta: From the school, the still did.

Janet: What school? Happy Hill school?

Loretta: Oh, no, high school. Physics department.

Eric: Oh, OK.

Janet: We were thinking maybe you had a still here! Now the blackberries and raspberries were out there, where were the strawberries?

Janet: Where was the vegetable garden?

Loretta: Under your parking lot.

Janet: That was your vegetable garden out there? That whole thing?

Loretta: Yes, clear down to the road.

Janet: And clear over to the fence?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So that whole area, the whole parking lot was your vegetable garden?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Big vegetable garden!

Loretta: And you didn't have a power cultivator to cultivate it with either.

Janet: Did you do it with a horse-drawn plow?

Loretta: Sometimes, when you could get it done.

Janet: So that's why we have the asparagus growing right next to the fence?

Eric: You really had all of that plowed up for a garden?

Loretta: Yes, put some potatoes in there.

Eric: There were only four of you.

Loretta: We had hired men for years. We had two when Papa had polio.

Janet: And they were living here in the house also? So you really had six people that you were feeding?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: My family had a vegetable garden, and ours was about that big. So I believe it.

Loretta: We had potatos and sweet corn.

Janet: So you had sweet corn.

Loretta: How many hills of sweet corn do we got out there?

Eric: Oh, I've got two short rows.

Loretta: How many hills? Didn't you put them in hills?

Eric: No, they're in rows.

Loretta: When you sowed them, did you?

Eric: Yes.

Janet: So you had sweet corn and potatoes.

Loretta: Everything, melons.

Janet: Squash.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Green beans.

Loretta: Some of that stuff takes up a lot of room.

Janet: The asparagus that is out there next to the fence, is that the asparagus bed in there or is that wild?

Loretta: That's birds, have sewn the seed. It's wild, if you want to call it.

Janet: Eric says he has been cutting that so you can eat it.

Loretta: Are those raspberries doing anything down there?

Eric: Yes, and those out by the pond too. Now, none of those are what you planted, right?

Loretta: Are these awful small down here?

Eric: They're very tiny.

Loretta: Dry weather, that's what it is. Nothing but seeds I expect.

Janet: OK, so I'm trying to see this farm here. We've got a vegetable garden in what is now the parking lot. You had your raspberries and blackberries over here [west of house]. You had an orchard with all different kinds of fruit trees. The brooder house with the young chickens and the hen house beyond that, right?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Did you have any particular flower arrangement or tree arrangement in the front yard?

Loretta: Like what it is now. Except there is one tree out now and you can plant that next spring.

Janet: What tree is missing?

Eric: There's one in this row that doesn't have a tree.

Janet: I know there are quite a few lilac bushes out there, were those ones you planted?

Loretta: Yes, the lilac bushes down at the road, made that for a hedge. They forgot to trim it about five years ago.

Janet: So were there any other flower beds or anything that used to be here and is not here now?

Loretta: The only thing I know that is not here now, was the old fashioned pink rose. You know what that is?

Janet: Those kind of wild roses, those rambling roses?

Loretta: No, around these old farm homes they had a pink rose.

Eric: Similar to the yellow?

Loretta: Similar to this yellow rose. That yellow rose is like you find in these old homes. This pink rose was down there in that lily bed. I think dry weather killed it out.

Eric: Sometime I think you told me, were there peach trees?

Loretta: When we came here there were peach trees down there with the blackberries.

Eric: Near the lilac bushes?

Loretta: No, Marshall put those lilac bushes in. I killed out the poison ivy down there.

Eric: By pulling it up, huh?

Loretta: I got that out there on the post, didn't I?

Eric: Yeah.

Loretta: I'd like to get that over there on that fence.

Eric: I've sprayed it and when it dies I'll pull it down.

Loretta: It don't seem to be dying yet!

Eric: Well, it will take a little while.

Loretta: That post, I sure got. I would have gone on further, but I had company coming that day.

Janet: So you had peach trees in the front yard originally? Peach trees along this front side road?

Loretta: On the side of the yard. There was a fence down there.

Eric: They were in the fence?

Loretta: Side of that lilac bush.

Eric: There was a fence there?

Loretta: There was a fence there. When we came here those peach trees were there. That lilac hedge is supposed to be a hedge down there. I killed the ivy off down there. Marshall made me. He used to get out so with ivy.

Eric: He would get poison ivy real bad?

Loretta: Salt was the remedy for it. Table salt. That is as good as any medicines you can buy.

Janet: I think I'm lucky, I don't get poison ivy.

Loretta: I don't either.

Eric: You [Janet] can go out and pull it then!

Janet: I camp a lot and I never get it. So I must be immune to it. Loretta must be immune to it.

Loretta: I used to be, but I felt a little of that the other day.

Eric: Sometimes that can change.

Loretta: It comes back on you.

Janet: When did you get your first refrigerator? You said you didn't have an ice box and used the cistern or wells for keeping things cool.

Loretta: Marshall and Mama experimented, some of the magazines came out on how to make a homemade refrigerator using water and sacks. I don't know how it was done. They tried that for a year. We didn't get the refrigerator till, I don't know when it was. We didn't get it before we got electricity.

Janet: What year did you get electricity?

Loretta: About 1935. We got a used one after that.

Janet: Did you ever have an ice box?

Loretta: Not here.

Janet: So how did you keep your things cool?

Loretta: Well.

Janet: Put them in the well?

Loretta: Butter and milk.

Janet: In the cistern down here?

Loretta: This one here at the house.

Janet: So this is where you kept your household things and the big one down there is where you kept the big milk cans?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Did they have to be tied to a rope?

Loretta: Or a tree.

Janet: Or you put it in buckets and lowered it down?

Loretta: Buckets or something. You didn't spill it either.

Janet: You kept your butter and milk in there; were there other things you kept in there?

Loretta: You pretty well eat things up you know.

Eric: You said you didn't have an ice box, ever?

Loretta: No, we never had an ice box at all. In [19]35 the power line came in. But we got a refrigerator then. But we did get a freezer, it was down in the cellar. I didn't get near the use out of it. You could put a half of beef in it. I get more use out of this one, then out of that because it was downstairs.

Janet: Did your family do their own butchering?

Loretta: We used to. When I was going to grade school, Papa used to do butchering. When he got older, he used to take out to MacDan's(?) in Ochletree to butcher. It took a lot of work off of both of them.

Janet: Did they used to butcher their own cattle and hogs, both?

Loretta: Yeah.

Eric: So they did have some beef cattle?

Loretta: Yeah.

Eric: How many beef cattle did they have?

Loretta: Didn't have beef cows, you didn't have beef cows.

Janet: You just had dairy cows and you just slaughter one?

Loretta: You didn't always have dairy calves when you got your calves. You're enough of a farmer to know that!

Eric: But I'm not sure what you mean.

Janet: So all your calves weren't...

Eric: I'm not sure what you're talking about now. I've got lost too.

Janet: Some of your calves would be males and you would slaughter them?

Eric: Steers.

Loretta: And culls, some of them were culls. You didn't always keep them.

Janet: So you would have at the most, cows or cattle you were milking, 23 head?

Loretta: That's the highest.

Janet: With the other cattle you had extra how many all together? Maybe 25 or 30?

Loretta: 50.

Janet: 50?!

Loretta: Milk cows and stock cows.

Janet: Did you sell the cattle also?

Loretta: Sold culls.

Janet: Are you staying "culls"? The ones you would cull out?

Loretta: Yeah.

Eric: I've never heard that term. Is that c-u-l-l?

Janet: Yeah. So the ones that were not of your best quality, you call them culls? You would cull them out of the herd and sell those? Or you would butcher them for meat?

Loretta: You would have males too and you would take them out of the herd.

Janet: So you would take them up here to the stock yard in Bonita to load and sell them?

Loretta: To load them. That is the way they used to do in earlier times. But not after I got at it.

Janet: Then what did they do when you got involved?

Loretta: Load in trucks.

Janet: Oh, yeah.

Loretta: Load up to the barn and take them out.

Janet: Take them all the way into Kansas City or load them at Bonita?

Loretta: Take them to Kansas City. So that's when your stockyards at Bonita were taken out.

Janet: When trucking became more popular?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: When did you get your first car?

Loretta: I don't know, we've never looked!

Eric: Where is that?

Loretta: In the picture down the hall.

Janet: [Gets the framed photos.]

Loretta: What does that say?

Janet: Loretta, Ida DeVilbiss and Marshall Ensor. So that is you, your mom and Marshall? It doesn't give a date.

Loretta: Papa got that car when I graduated from grade school.

Janet: So if you started when you were 5, then you went 8 years?

Loretta: This was a 9 year school here.

Janet: So it would be about 1917 or 18, if you went 9 years.

Loretta: That's about it. What year of car is that?

Eric: I don't know cars very well!

Loretta: Does he know history?!

Eric: Not all of it!

Janet: He is still learning. We're all still learning.

Eric: But this is your first car?

Loretta: That is the first car. Papa bought it at Spring Hill, at a sale down there.

Janet: Is this parked in front of this house or what is this building? [Refers to photo]

Loretta: I don't know. Looks like this place.

Here is the way we made hay.

Janet: Is that on this farm also? Is that being done here?

Loretta: Yes, alfalfa out behind the silo. I can tell you who is on the lines too.

Janet: Who is this? Do you know?

Loretta: Me.

Janet: You're here! You're in this picture?

Loretta: That's me driving that team.

Eric: Up in front.

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: Is this Marshall and your dad?

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: Is this one of the barns here?

Loretta: That's the peg barn.

Janet: The peg barn and this is at the south end of it.

Loretta: Yeah.

Eric: Over by the trailer, where the big cedar trees are.

Janet: Yeah. Where are you in this picture?

Loretta: I'm the one holding the team onto that hay fork. There is a team out here on the other side of that barn that is holding that hay fork.

Janet: So this is the south side of the barn and at the north side there is a team here that is pulling the hay up? Is that how it works? This is another place I'm real dumb, Loretta; you've got to tell me how this works.

Loretta: It's been a long time since I've been there too. Yes, this is on the south side of the barn and rope goes through. You got a wood hay fork track up there.

Janet: It's on like a pulley?

Loretta: The fact that it's wood that tells the story of it.

Janet: So you would be on the north side of the peg barn with another team. You would make those horses pull that hay fork.

Loretta: Pull that load of hay up out that wagon.

Janet: And then you would have them let the fork back down and load up another load?

Loretta: You've got the idea! Pulls up, catches there and goes in on the track.

Janet: Is there a person who stands there and unloads it and stacks it?

Loretta: Yes. There's another person in there to unload it.

Janet: So three people could do this whole operation?

Loretta: Yeah.

Janet: So you would have one that is here loading the hay onto the hay fork...

Loretta: Papa loaded the hay and Marshall... Papa unloaded the hay, I should say; off the wagon. Then unloaded here at the barn. Your fork comes down here and pulls it up in there.

(continued)

Janet: So the hay was just stacked in loose piles up in the loft?

Loretta: You put it back all tied. You didn't let it pack all up. You'd never get it down if you did.

Eric: So you couldn't loose pile it?

Loretta: Work it back, work it back into the barn. Like loose hay.

Janet: So it's piled in loose bundles.

Loretta: Yes, fork fulls. Throw it down by hand.

Janet: Who is Claude Hamilton, Edison, Kessler [refers to photo]?

Loretta: Just friends of ours. There's a picture; that's a fella up here on the corner, we got a kick out of.

Eric: Is that a steam engine?

Loretta: That's a steam engine. You're right! That's a thrasher. Far enough back that they got the whole thing in that picture.

Janet: That is a good picture.

Eric: Where was that?

Loretta: Over on the hill; back part of the place.

Janet: Is that you?

Loretta: That's me. Five horse team; that's after harvest in a dry year. The ground was hard. See, I told you Marshall had to take care of the horses, that was his work.

Janet: So he has three in the back row and two in front. What is he doing in that photo?

Loretta: Oh, I don't know. Papa would probably be driving them. You have to curry them and clean their collars. You know that takes a lot of work! That is a lot of work! That picture of that thrashing rig is some picture.

Eric: I had a couple of questions too, before we go on. You talked about the orchard; how many trees did you have out there?

Loretta: Oh, I don't know.

Eric: Was it pretty well full?

Loretta: It was full. We had everything. There was cherries when we came here. There was cherries back there in that well area. And the meat house was to the south and there were cherry trees there. There were cherry trees there in that orchard.

Eric: Where were they at?

Loretta: Straight south. Those Damson trees were here when we came here and still here. You keep the lawn mower off the little ones, why we may have some more!

Eric: Did you say the meat house was some place else?

Loretta: Straight south.

Janet: Straight south of the summer kitchen?

Loretta: Where it is. South of where it is in the middle of the orchard.

Eric: In the middle of the orchard?

Janet: Why was it moved, do you know?

Loretta: Get it down here to the summer kitchen, get it all together.

Eric: Then my other question was, did you have an outhouse out here?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Where was it? And what happened to it?

Loretta: Out between the gate and the fence; out there in the corner.

Janet: Where those pits are today?

Loretta: Where that bush is.

Eric: Just right at the edge of the fence? Where it turns the corner?

Loretta: Out there where those two fences come together. What happened to it? Well, our neighbor up here took her grandson's coons; he raised coons. And

she brought them out here and those coons weren't happy up on the hill. Came down here and tore up the floor of that outhouse. This was in later years. Got in the outhouse. She got rid of the coons and I got rid of the outhouse! I used it for firewood.

Janet: What year did you get running water? You got electricity in 1935. What year did you get running water?

Loretta: We put the pump in right afterwards. But we had a hand pump here. Papa put a hand pump in as soon as he got around to it.

Janet: That was connected to the cistern?

Loretta: Yes. That sink over in the summer kitchen, is the sink we had here. We had a hand pump. I don't know what became of that hand pump.

Janet: What year did you put in the bathroom upstairs? What year did you get water other than from the cistern out here?

Loretta: I don't know. The museum board... When did they start that museum?

Janet: 1967.

Loretta: 67?

Janet: Yes. Was it after you gave the farm to the museum?

Loretta: The museum board was the one who brought the water in.

Janet: Oh, so you didn't have it until then?

Loretta: No, no.

Janet: You used all cistern water?

Loretta: All cistern water.

Eric: Do you want to tell us about the pump downstairs? You've told me about that before, too.

Loretta: What did I tell you?

Eric: I don't remember all of it, but there's a pump downstairs in a tank.

Loretta: You've seen that?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: But he hasn't seen it until the other day! I sent him down to look at. He didn't know what a water pump was!

Eric: Explain to me again how that works?

Loretta: The pump?

Eric: Yeah.

Loretta: Just like any another pump, except it's a power pump.

Eric: Was the water collected down there in the barrel then?

Loretta: Collected down there in the tank. It's pumped out of the cistern and pumped up here in the tank, all automatic. Come down to the tank and when the tank was full, I would shut off the pump.

Eric: It was an electric pump?

Loretta: It was electric.

Janet: I'm lost in this!! You had an electric pump in the basement that would pull water from the cistern out here and pull it into the tank in the basement. And then the hand pump up here...

Loretta: No, no, that hand pump we had here.

Janet: So why were you wanting to collect water in the tank in the basement? What would you use that for?

Loretta: It was the pressure. We had water under pressure here, just like you got down there. You got a pump house down there. Our pump house is down here.

Janet: Okay.

Eric: Before that you had been using the hand pump and it was coming directly out of ...

Loretta: When did we stop using the hand pump? I guess around in the thirties. The thirties sometime. I don't know when they stopped using that hand pump.

Janet: So you had the tank in the basement that gave you the water pressure so you could run water up to

the faucet here and run water all the way upstairs.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So that was the purpose of the tank.

Loretta: Yes, that's where the pressure is, in the tank. He has a well house down there, a pump house.

Eric: At my mom's.

Loretta: Ours is in the basement.

Janet: Is that a system Marshall rigged up?

Loretta: Oh, no. This is...

Eric: A commercial one; one you could buy?

Loretta: Yeah, a commercial.

Janet: Oh, OK, I thought it was something Marshall invented.

Loretta: No. He put it in; he wouldn't let anyone else put it in.

Eric: The other hydrants that are like here and back at the chicken house, what water system are they hooked up to?

Loretta: The same. They didn't use the water system at all here, when they put the water in. Well to a certain extent, things are only supposed to last 30-35 years. The water has been here from [19] 35 to [19] 80, how many years is that?

Janet: About 45 years. You got pretty good use out of it.

Loretta: I guess they did it right, instead of bothering with this. Having it go out on them after they got it going. They just put new in to start with. Did it their own way; they didn't follow the way it is here. But I do wish they would put those faucets up all around.

Eric: Well that's something to show people too, explain how that works.

Loretta: Yeah. But how many are interested in that?

Janet: Well I think that it's just a matter of making it an interesting story to tell.

Eric: It's all part of the changes.

Loretta: I got Dad's ole shotgun upstairs. Double barrel shotgun. He bought before I was born, at a farm sale. So you know how old it was.

Janet: Still got it loaded?

Loretta: Peavy took it out here last year. The shells that are in it aren't the shells you use today.

Janet: Oh.

Eric: Would it work?

Loretta: Yes, it would work. But he remarked about the different shells.

Janet: Did your dad teach you how to shoot a gun?

Loretta: Oh, yes!

Janet: A good shot?

Loretta: I stood out here in the yard once and hit a hawk on one of those Catalpa trees out there in the grove. That was good enough shot.

Janet: Yeah.

Loretta: I wasn't like that Hines shooting for Ganter!!

Eric: Do you have another story?

Loretta: I think I about got them all.

Janet: Let's break for today. You have another one you want to say?

Loretta: Yeah, I got another one. It's never been told, it should be told. How I come to be a radio operator.

Janet: You know what I think? The whole story of the radio is something we should do a whole afternoon on. I know I have a lot of questions about that and I think Eric does too. I don't think we have enough tape to get into that today.

Loretta: I think if you get to asking questions you'll get me in too deep.

Janet: I know, that's why I think we should wait until next time. We'll do the radio the whole

afternoon. That is going to be a place again where Eric and I show how stupid we are!

Loretta: This connection with the schools. I became a radio operator. The Olathe school board would not grant the permission to have a licensed radio in the school, like they do today. Marshall had this station here and he couldn't get another license. So who was going to get a license for the school for the boys to use there. You know who did?! Yeah, I got a license there. That radio station was used quite extensively.

Eric: That was at the high school?

Loretta: That was at the high school. That was the first high school to have a radio station permanently located in the state of Kansas. The first high school to have a radio station permanently located in the state of Kansas. And I helped license it.

Janet: You know, before our next time, I want you to think of radio stories to tell. I'm sure that you must have a lot of things to talk about.

Loretta: No.

Janet: Well, we have a lot of questions.

Loretta: That's where you'll get me in trouble.

Janet: I know I don't know very much about it all.

Loretta: I don't know about it either. It's outgrown me. Today it isn't anything like when I was operating it.

Janet: Well, what I'd like to talk to you about is what it was like when you were operating it. I would like to talk about back then and not necessarily radio today.

Loretta: Radio is so different today than what it was. Just 15 years ago.

Janet: I'll have to be sure and bring two tapes for that one.

Loretta: I don't have much to tell on that.

Janet: Oh, I bet you do.

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Janet: Well, let's see, I think last time we decided to talk about the radio station.

Loretta: As I said before, this museum is not a memorial to one person. It represents a family. Appreciation to Johnson County for the opportunity to have a happy and useful life here. A family of two generations. Another thing of interest here, that has been handed down, one of the unwritten laws of the past is in locating the person's portion of a fence. You stand on your side of the fence facing the said fence, and to the right, your right, is your half of the fence. That is just one of the unwritten laws of pioneer days, which is kind of interesting. As far as radios are concerned, I forgot so much of it, I don't know much. But this station has been a unique station from the beginning. Because we didn't have electricity here. In 1917 it was first started with batteries. In 1922 we began using generators, engine room generators. The first engine was a horse power and a half. They only had horse power engines. I remember we used to crank that engine up every time we came on the air. Zip down the basement steps, crank the engine up and come back up to the top. That was fun!

Janet: So you had the generator located in the basement?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Below the kitchen?

Loretta: Not below the kitchen, but the basement steps. That was an one and half horse power. The next engine was a four horse power Cushman engine. That engine is out in the cow barn. To get away from radio to that engine, the four horse power Cushman engine was the engine that brought the farmer out of the drabness of the operations of a farm. Because it was used for pumping water, grinding feed, and sawing wood. A little later they put it on combines, not this one particular engine, but the four horse power Cushman engine. That was a larger, larger, heavier engine than one we originally started with.

Janet: When did you start using the Cushman engine? How long did you have the small one?

Loretta: Oh, I don't know. We came on after the war, in '22. That was with the small one in '22 when we

came on. About '25 or '26 when we came on with the big Cushman engine. That's when we were operating on forty meters as well as with full 6.0. We were the only 9th district station reported by CBS in Argentina. Using the four horse power Cushman.

Eric: What is the 9th district?

Loretta: That used to be here. After the war the 9th district was divided into the 9th and 10th district. East of the Mississippi river was the 9th district and west was the 10th district. That was a result of the war, after the war. So many more amateurs came on then, that they couldn't handle them.

Janet: So the United States was divided into two districts, east and west of the Mississippi?

Loretta: The United States was divided into 10 districts. But we were in the 9th district. But right after the war they divided it into 9th and 10th district.

Eric: So then you were in the 10th?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Who divided them? Who makes these districts? Whose jurisdiction is that?

Loretta: The Federal Communications Commission.

Eric: And were those districts for just amateur radio stations?

Loretta: Just amateur radio alone.

Eric: And the professional radio stations were different?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: How did you and Marshall get interested in radio broadcast in the first place?

Loretta: Marshall got interested in it when he was in school, 1917. In the winter time he stayed with some friends there in town when the weather was bad. And a couple of boys in his class lived there adjoining where he was and they were interested in radio. Just like boys! They were interested in radio and he got interested in it.

Janet: Radio was a pretty new thing at that time.

Loretta: 1917 it was! It was! Of course these boys in 1917 were probably in physics class in high school.

Janet: Marshall would have been a junior or senior at that time?

Loretta: Yes. The boys he was acquainted with were interested in it. He got interested in it.

Janet: So he got interested in it in high school and he set up a station here at home? Right away?

Loretta: Yes, 1917, right before the war. It's out there in the barn, or it should be.

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: Then from that went on to to a larger station, larger tubes.

Janet: When you first started, you had a one and a half horse power engine and then you upgraded it to a four horse power Cushman engine. When you had the bigger engine, were you able to broadcast to a wider audience?

Loretta: Yes. As I said we were the only 9th district station heard by CBS in Buenos Aires, Argentina. A north-south operation we had at one time. From that we went on to 1929 and with another station. We put in a power supply of storage batteries. Had 1200 volts of storage batteries down there in the basement with a Model T Ford engine to run the generator and charge them.

Janet: Ok, You're starting to lose me already! You had 1200 storage...

Loretta: 1200 volt storage batteries.

Janet: What does that mean? What does a 1200 volt storage battery give you or what does that do?

Loretta: Gives you that much power.

Janet: So you had a Model T Ford engine...

Loretta: Charging the generator.

Janet: And was all of this in the basement?

Loretta: Yes. That was before the south basement was dug out too. That was all in the north basement.

Eric: And this is before you had electricity?

Loretta: Yes, we didn't have electricity until about '35, I guess.

Janet: So you had the Model T Ford engine providing power for the generator that ran the radio?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Where did this 1200 volt storage battery fit into that? Where does this fit in?

Loretta: Well, 1200 volt on the plate of the tubes. Fits in with power, that's what it fits into.

Janet: OK.

Eric: So you could store up power...

Loretta: Start up the engine to start up the generator that was charging the batteries!!

Janet: So the 1200 volt storage battery was the supply, so that you didn't have to run down the steps every time you wanted to go on the air?

Loretta: Yes. That was fun when you turn off the engine up here, turn off the generator up here. You listen and run downstairs and crank up the engines. Start the generator going. Come on the air and answer back. That was quite some fun.

Janet: So you said Marshall got interested in radio through school. How did Loretta get interested in this?

Loretta: Well, that's a story.

Janet: Being a good sister or what?

Loretta: Yes, being a good sister! He didn't come on until after the war, after 1922. And he wanted to teach the boys. Started a radio club in the school and then, of course, he wanted a transmitter. He couldn't have more than one station license to his name. A station here and a station in Olathe would be two stations. You could only have one station license to a name. And the Olathe school board didn't think enough of radio to license it. So who was going to license it for the boys to have a

transmitter up there? Loretta did, that's who licensed it! I carried the license for the high school transmitter.

Janet: So that was in your name?

Loretta: But here is the record that the Olathe high school was the first high school in the state of Kansas to have a permanently licensed amateur radio station.

Janet: What were the call letters for the radio station in Olathe high school?

Loretta: 9 U A.

Janet: 9 U A and the one here at home was what?

Loretta: 9 B S P.

Janet: 9 B S P?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: This may be a really dumb question, but how do you pick your call letters?

Loretta: You don't pick them, they give them to you.

Janet: The Federal Communications Commission assigns them?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Is there any rhyme or reason to how they assign them? Does it mean any particular thing?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Were they both 9 because you were in the 9th district?

Loretta: Yes. You noticed I said 9, later they came on with the W 9. And then after the war they divided us as W O.

Janet: So originally it was just 9 U A.

Loretta: Just 9 U A.

Janet: And then after the war, it became W 9 U A.

Loretta: W O U A.

Janet: When did W 9 U A come in?

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Loretta: There started to get more and more population. More radio operators. Then is when they put in more of the countries. W is for the United States. They began to get more countries.

Janet: So W was the United States letter?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So W 9 U A meant the United States, 9th district and U A doesn't mean anything?

Loretta: That meant the station.

Janet: That meant the particular station. And then after World War I it became W O?

Loretta: W O U A.

Janet: OK.

Loretta: I can still hear that harmonics there. There were no YL women operators in this whole middle area of the country.

Janet: No YL, what does that mean?

Loretta: Young ladies.

Janet: OK, so there were no women operators...

Loretta: In this whole central area when I came on in '22.

Janet: You were the first one in the midwest?

Loretta: And there were some on both coasts. And then later, why through the code lessons we put a number of women on there. Through the code lessons, of course. The women got together in '39 and formed the organization of YL, Young Ladies Radio Relief. And that's the monthly bulletin they put out [on the table]. I was a charter member.

Janet: Did they have annual meetings?

Loretta: Yes. This year I believe it's in Hawaii, I believe.

Janet: Are you going to go to that one?!

Loretta: Yes, I probably will! [Laughter] I can't walk across the kitchen floor.

Janet: Did you ever go to any of their annual meetings?

Loretta: Went up to Chicago to the whole organization once. Took a car full of boys and went up. We had quite a time. That's when that...

Janet: Did the boys attend the Young Ladies Radio League meeting?

Loretta: We all went together. Yes, sometimes the men would follow the women to YLRE.

Janet: You were one of the early women in the Midwest and through the code lessons got a lot of people in?

Loretta: A whole lot of radio operators. Eric wouldn't bring one radio operator in here to see the transmitter the other day.

Eric: I don't remember who that was.

Loretta: Poor guy stood out there on the walk and talked and looked at the back side of that transmitter for 10 minutes. Eric wouldn't bring him in and show it to him.

Janet: Let's see, so you got involved in it through wanting to license the school?

Loretta: License the transmitter at the school.

Janet: Did you learn how to do broadcast through Marshall?

Loretta: I had to take examinations just like the rest of them.

Janet: Where did you do the examinations?

Loretta: In Kansas City.

Janet: Was there a school there?

Loretta: You learned yourself.

Eric: So Marshall taught you?

Loretta: Taught myself, you can read [books to learn]. I read.

Janet: But you said you learned in Kansas City?

Loretta: Our examinations were in Kansas City with Federal Communications Commission.

Janet: So you got books and just read about it here yourself and then you went into Kansas City to take the test to get your license?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: So then you didn't actually teach the boys? Marshall did that right? You just held the license?

Loretta: I didn't teach up in Olathe, no. Of course, the Olathe boys followed the code lessons.

Janet: Tell me more about the code lessons, what exactly were those?

Loretta: Marshall gave 50 lessons and during basketball games he would have to go to basketball games. That would take him away from here. Well, you know who operated the transmitter. We kept it running, never missed a lesson all winter.

Janet: When did you start broadcasting the code lessons?

Loretta: About 1930. Don't use the word broadcasting. We don't.

Janet: What word do you use?

Loretta: Operation.

Janet: Operate?

Loretta: Yes. Broadcasting stations are a different thing.

Janet: So amateur stations say...

Loretta: An amateur.

Janet: So these code lessons were transmitted. Is that the right word?

Loretta: That's the right word.

Janet: OK, transmitted in the evenings. Every evening during the week?

Loretta: Every evening for 50 lessons.

Janet: Seven nights a week you guys would...

Loretta: Seven nights a week.

Janet: What did you teach in the code lessons? What were the code lessons?

Loretta: Of course you ran the code, you know what the Morse code is?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: All the questions, there is a handbook put out that you could follow. You could follow the course, you could say. Learn from that. There were books put out and you could read, you could remember.

Janet: I guess maybe I'm not understanding. Is knowing the Morse code a critical part of operating the amateur radio station?

Loretta: That is the whole thing, you've got to know how to operate. Know the Morse code or you don't get it! Don't get your license.

Eric: You could talk to people, they could hear you?

Janet: Or did you communicate through Morse code?

Loretta: We talked to them when we gave the code lessons. We could talk to them.

Eric: Why did people need to know the Morse code then?

Loretta: Because the government required it.

Eric: Was it in case...

Loretta: You know we used the Morse code before we could transmit with voice. You know you can get a signal on the air when you can't transmit with voice.

Janet: But the entire time you and Marshall were transmitting, you were transmitting your voice, right? Or were you communicating with Morse code?

Loretta: We put the code on too.

Janet: During your lessons?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: But when you were doing other than the lessons, were you using Morse code to communicate with other people?

Loretta: No, we had the phone. The 40 meter band, operation on 40 meter band opened up about '29. And we operated quite extensively then. We contacted CBB and Buenos Aires, Argentina. The first contact we had at that time. You don't think anything about that, talking to Argentina now. But we used code then and we got lucky to get through with code there, in '29.

Janet: So in 1929 you communicated with Argentina through Morse code?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: You couldn't talk to them with your voice?

Loretta: Voice wouldn't carry that far!

Janet: So for really long distances Morse code would carry further than your voices?

Loretta: In those days. Of course, now a days it is a different story.

Janet: So knowing the Morse code was a requirement of the FCC in order to get your license; so, by you and Marshall teaching the code lessons you helped a lot of people get an amateur license?

Loretta: Everybody didn't have a machine to run off the code for them. We got a couple of instruments out there in the barn that will transmit the code. And then we used to send by hand, too. Because your hand, unless you're experienced you're clumsy.

Janet: What do you mean send by hand? Send the code by hand?

Loretta: Yes. Just like your telegraph operator at the railroad.

Eric: On the other machine, was that something you had programmed in there already, on the tape?

Loretta: Yes. One of those out there is tape and one is a disk. I was going to tell you something...I don't remember what it was now.

Janet: I had a question. I was looking at some of the old photographs. The towers were not located, in those old photographs, where they're located today. How come they're located differently today? Do you

remember when they were moved? It seems like one of the towers were located...

Loretta: Across the drive?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: Yes, this one was located across the drive.

Janet: This one closet to the house now used to be over there?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Why did you move it over here?

Loretta: The signal, different length of signal for an operation. You had to have your frequency just to suit your signal. You couldn't tune in those days like you do today. Oh, I was going to tell you about what I told Eric this morning. Marshall wrote up that thesis, "Teaching Radio by Radio," each evening as he gave the code lessons. He would make an outline of it. In his department there was an old operator from the war, one of the professors, had been a radio operator in the war. And some of the higher ups asked this old fella, "Do you suppose he could teach radio by radio?" Professor told the guy he's [Marshall's] done it. He taught ten years all together, teaching that.

Eric: Marshall taught ten years of radio?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: The total number of years he taught radio by radio was ten years or by the time he was writing his thesis he had already done it for ten years? So you started doing this in 1929?

Loretta: I don't know if it was '29 or '30. I guess it was '30.

Janet: And you continued until WWII?

Loretta: Continued.

Eric: He wrote his thesis in 1940?

Loretta: [No answer]

Eric: That's what I think.

Janet: When WWII started, did you have to stop your radio communication?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Was that a War Department order or something?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: They can't have all the amateur radios on?

Loretta: Something from the War Department shut down the amateurs right away. Interference.

Janet: Yes. So during the whole duration of WWII you were shut down?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Did you come back on when the war was over?

Loretta: Yes.
I don't know, that is about all there is to it.

(continued)

Janet: So when you were teaching the code lessons, were you and Marshall both responsible for teaching them? Did you have some nights you taught and some nights he taught? Or did you teach them together?

Loretta: When he wasn't here I would take over.

Janet: When he was at the basketball games?

Loretta: Basketball games or something like that, well then I would take over.

Eric: Do you just do it in the winter?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Why was that?

Loretta: Signal carried better.

Janet: Why is that? How do they carry better in the winter? Because of the weather?

Loretta: Probably.

Janet: The air is clear or something?

Loretta: Yes, yes.

Eric: Do you do any talking on the radio during the other months?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: Well, I know I've seen lots and lots of little postcards that you received from other people. How did you make connections with all these people? Did you just get on the air and whoever is listening talks back?

Loretta: You hear 'em, you listen. You listen to them.

Janet: So you would just turn your set on, so that you were both transmitting and receiving?

Loretta: Transmit and receive.

Janet: You just come on the air and "This is W O U A"?

Loretta: Oh, one interesting thing. My voice was taken for a boy's voice. The term "Old Man" is used, instead of saying Eric, why Old Man. And my voice is a

little voice taken for a boy's voice and the fellas would come on and, not knowing, call me Old Man. Well, the next time I operate they would apologize for calling me Old Man.

Eric: So when they first heard you they couldn't tell?

Loretta: There were few girls on and they never thought of a girl operating.

Janet: When you were on the air operating, were you identified by your call letters? Or did you identify yourself by name?

Loretta: We didn't use a name. But they're using a name now more than ever. We didn't use names.

Janet: So they didn't know you as Loretta, they knew you by your call letters?.

Loretta: By call letters, that's right.

Janet: So all of the little postcards and things that you have are just friends that you made from around the world, I think?

Loretta: That's right.

Janet: And they just communicate with you also?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: If you were on the radio, did you ever set up a time; say, "I'll talk to you Thursday evening?"

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Who were some of the people you talked to? Is there anybody real unique or interesting that you met?

Janet: Any good friends that you made?

Loretta: Well, I got a friend in Johannesburg, South Africa, whose birthday is the same date as mine. But one is on one side of the equator and one is on the other side. So we don't celebrate the same day. But the date is the same. I correspond with her all the time.

Janet: Can you think of any other interesting personalities you met over the radio?

Loretta: A Portuguese ship operator in what sea? I forgot what sea over there? Sent me a card and said, "Your signals give turn to the globe." That was when they did give turn to the globe meant something wonderful.

Eric: What did you say?

Loretta: When your signals give turn to the globe.

Eric: Your signals give turn to the globe?

Janet: What does that mean?

Loretta: Just what it says. He was receiving me on the opposite side of the globe.

Janet: Oh!

Loretta: Portuguese ship operator over there. Oh, wouldn't be the Indian Ocean, what ocean is over there?

Eric: Atlantic Ocean?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Mediterranean?

Loretta: In the Mediterranean some place.

Janet: So you had a pretty powerful transmitter that you could give signals all the way around to the other side of the globe? Is that what you're saying?

Loretta: Well it was powerful enough to reach the other side of the globe. I used to contact South Africa and Australia by radio.

Janet: Did you have a friend down there?

Loretta: Yes, I had several close friends down there. I had this transmitter on this operating. Of course, our signals traveled better on those frequencies and travel better at night. I get up here early in the morning and get breakfast and operate the radio station at the same time.

Eric: Did you ever meet any of the people you talked to?

Loretta: Oh, yeah.

Janet: Like at some of these Young Ladies Radio League meetings?

Loretta: We went to Chicago, I think I said that. We went to the National Meeting once. And used to go down to the Kansas City, to the Kansas City meeting every now and then.

Janet: Do they still have these meetings?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: They still go on?

Loretta: Let's see I had an invitation to go to Garnett. Garnett was having their meeting and they were trying to get some of the outside operators together. They wanted me to come now and they even offered to come up and get me! I'm in no condition to go down there though.

Janet: You're going to save up your strength for Hawaii!

Loretta: No, I'm now looking forward to going to Lawrence, Saturday evening. To the garden party up there.

Janet: That will be fun.

Loretta: They'll come down and take me.

Janet: Back to my question about the towers, why did you have two towers? Is one of them old and you stopped using it?

Loretta: No, put up at the same time. I just hope they stay up there. I've had a number of people ask me about those dishes, see them? That's been up there for 50 years.

Janet: Well, why did you have to have two different towers?

Loretta: Get the wire in between. The antenna runs in between them.

Eric: It's not there now.

Loretta: At the present time, it's wrapped around one of these posts out here.

Janet: So you had both of these towers and the antenna for transmitting your signal ran between these two towers?

Loretta: Yes. See our signals were not very far from the broadcast signals, below the broadcast on the band. Not very far from the broadcast signals.

Janet: And the broadcast signals being the ones that are operated by the...

Loretta: Broadcasting station.

Janet: So you're not very far from them, you had to have a really long antenna for transmitting?

Loretta: For the transmission we were to do. There's a Radio Relay League, who's backing putting these code signals on the air for the amateur. For the fellas to learn by, giving these lessons. And it is still done, but not to the extent just before the war. Just before the war is what took them off. Some of them were fighting it and we weren't.

Eric: So the American Radio Relay League was sponsoring the radio code lessons?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Were they paying Marshall?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Marshall was just doing it because he enjoyed it?

Loretta: They didn't pay anybody.

Janet: Marshall was a member of the Relay League?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: What were some of the other radio clubs or leagues that you and Marshall belonged to? You talk about the Young Ladies League and the American Relay League? Were there others you belonged to?

Loretta: Local more or less.

Janet: Those two were national?

Loretta: The YLRL is in operation with American Radio Relay League.

Janet: Was there a Johnson County Radio League?

Loretta: There was here awhile back. I don't know if they still have it. You heard Mary [Loretta's mail carrier] talking about this fella over here?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: I've never heard of him.

Eric: But there wasn't [a Johnson County league] when you were around?

Loretta: I don't know. Yes, there was when I was around but I don't know if he was or not. Just like that fella [museum visitor] was here. He told you that he heard about this so much, he come out to see what it was. Then you wouldn't bring him in and show him the station.

Janet: What did your mom and dad think about all this? The radio station? Were they in favor of it?

Loretta: They just let Marshall go.

Janet: Did your mom or dad ever learn how to operate it?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Just not interested in it?

Loretta: No.

Janet: When was this radio room built? What year was it put on the house?

Loretta: You've got me there. I don't know exactly. Early '30s.

Janet: Early '30s? Because you said he started again operating after WWI, so like in 1922. I just wondered where all this equipment was sitting... Right here, huh? [Laughter]. Right in the way!

Loretta: You know that desk out in the barn, upstairs there? That sat right there, where that door is.

Janet: So when you started doing the code lessons, maybe around that same time, you put on the extra room?

Loretta: Yes, this transmitter is dated '37 and the power line was brought in before that. The room was put on here and the power line brought in. And the transmitter was built.

Janet: The electrical power line was brought in?

Loretta: Right.

Janet: And I think you told us one time earlier, you think you got electricity here in 1935?

Loretta: Yes, it was about that time.

Janet: So when you got electricity, around that time, is when you made this addition?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And built the transmitter?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Marshall built the transmitter?

Loretta: Yes, that transmitter is hand built. Now you can go down to the Radio Shack and buy anything. If you have the money. You have to have money.

Eric: I was going to ask you too, several people have asked about the wooden posts on the towers and why there are wooden posts?

Loretta: Didn't have any other kind!

Eric: Well is there some reason that they had to...

Loretta: Made the tower higher! That was the idea.

Janet: But they're not used to ground it or anything?

Loretta: They're grounded, but other than that, there's no reason for them.

Eric: Is this a tower from a windmill or something?

Loretta: It is a windmill tower, but it was built especially for that.

Eric: So the posts are just to make it taller?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And taller for easier transmittal?

Loretta: You get out better.

Eric: Why didn't he just use more metal to put down there?

Loretta: Costs money.

Janet: Are they just hedge posts? Is that what they are?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Hedge posts don't rot very quick, right? They last for a long time?

Loretta: Well, I see they're rotting out there! I can see where they are decaying.

Janet: But they're about 50 years old. So that is pretty good.

Loretta: All that weight is on them. None of these fellas you've had around here, [they] don't look at these things. They haven't said one word about those towers. Those towers are just about as dangerous as anything here. That tower! Of course the tower out there, if it fell, it wouldn't fall on anybody. But this tower could make kindling out of this house! That's a lot of weight on there, that tower, on top of those posts.

Janet: What year did you say Marshall built the towers?

Loretta: It was in the '30s. That transmitter was built in '37, so...

Janet: So before that, what kind of towers did you use? Before he put these two up?

Loretta: Well, let's see, this tower was across the road, across the drive away. He used it, it set on the ground. You asked about setting it on the ground, it set on the ground.

Janet: So when you got electricity out here, you put on the radio room and you built this new transmitter. At this same time, he moved this radio tower across and put it on the posts?

Loretta: In the '30s, it all happened in the early part of the '30s. For historical purposes that radio room is built out of lumber, windows and doors from the Baptist Church that was at 175th and Pflumm.

Janet: They were tearing the church down at that time or building a new one?

Loretta: Taking the church down. It was a rural church, a country church.

Janet: So Marshall knew they were tearing it down and so he just scavenged the parts?

Loretta: The door, now the storm door didn't come from there. But the door, the windows and all the wood work. It is really historical.

Janet: What about the desk that is in there? Is that one he just made?

Loretta: He just made that to work in there. Now don't you ask me why there is vice in there, like some folks do!

Janet: Why is there a vice in there? [Laughter]

Loretta: People don't seem to realize it, it'll hold wire and things. You use a vice to hold wire and other things when you were working.

Eric: What would you be working on?

Loretta: Oh, the radio transmitter. He built it, I said.

Eric: So the vice was there in case he needed to repair something?

Loretta: Needed it to hold something.

Eric: OK.

Janet: I'm still lost. So as he is working on the transmitter and he needed to replace or repair some wires, he would have the vice there for that purpose?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Let's jump to Marshall's service in World War II. He was also doing radio there, wasn't he? Can you tell us something about his service in WWII and radio operation?

Loretta: He was too old to be in the active service. So he was located at the finest base in the country, naval. He was in the navy. In the finest navy base in the country.

Janet: Where is that?

Loretta: Seattle.

Janet: Did he join or was he drafted? You said he was...

Loretta: No, he was too old to be drafted. So he just joined.

Janet: So he joined.

Loretta: Because of his experience of teaching these code lessons. He wanted to get in over here at the navy base. But it was too small. His rank was above that.

Janet: Was he a lieutenant or what was he?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: A lieutenant?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: So he lived how many years in Seattle?

Loretta: I don't know. I don't remember how long.

Janet: Do you remember what year he left to go up there?

Loretta: I don't remember how many years he was up there.

Janet: Did you take him down to Union Station in Kansas City to send him off? Do you remember anything about him leaving?

Loretta: He left from up here. We had a lot of passenger trains. You folks don't know what passenger trains are!

Janet: So he was in Seattle serving with the navy. What was he doing for the navy?

Loretta: Radio.

Eric: Was he teaching it to officers so they could...

Loretta: No. A radio material officer.

Eric: What's that?

Loretta: You tell me! [laughter]

Janet: You don't know either?

Loretta: He was in charge of the radios.

Janet: Communications between different bases?

Loretta: Radio station, at that navy station. There was no other there to take care of that station. He had girls operating, putting in new tubes or something like that. But he was in charge of the station there.

Janet: Do you remember him telling any stories about what it was like being there at that time?

Loretta: The only time he ever packed a gun on his hip was the night after the armistice. He walked the streets of Seattle with a gun on his hip. That's the only time he ever...

Janet: Why then? Why did he have a gun on then?

Loretta: The town pretty near went wild, the war was over! He walked the streets that night.

Janet: Did he get out and party too?

Loretta: Not likely, with that [gun].

Eric: Did you or Ina ever go and visit him in Seattle?

Loretta: Ina was out there.

Janet: What year did Marshall get married?

Loretta: '30.

Janet: 1930? Was Ina originally from this area? What can you tell us about her? Do you know where she was born?

Loretta: A farm family.

Janet: What was her maiden name? What was her name before she was married?

Loretta: Dana.

Janet: Dana? Ina Dana was her name?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Do you know how they met?

Loretta: Oh, yes, she taught school up here.

Janet: Oh, they were both in the Olathe High School?

Loretta: No, she was grade school. She taught up here at the little school across the railroad track.

Eric: What school was that?

Loretta: Happy Hill.

Janet: Oh, she taught there. That's where you and Marshall had gone, right?

Loretta: Yes, years before.

Eric: When did they tear down that school?

Loretta: Oh, they didn't tear it down. Someone smart-aleck set it on fire.

Janet: Oh.

Loretta: So much destruction.

Eric: We haven't talked about the Paley Award.

Janet: Yes.

Eric: Can you tell us about that?

Janet: Do you remember what year he won that?

Loretta: It is designed by Alexander Calder, considered one of the foremost artist of his time. He just died recently. Marshall has a duplicate of the original; the original is kept by the American Radio Relay League. There were four of these little ones honored by Paley. Four of them put out.

Janet: Were they given for four different years or all one year?

Loretta: Four different years. For work that they had done.

Eric: Marshall was the last one?

Loretta: One thing about that, was that the one that had won it the year before Marshall did, for his work on the flood up here on the Ohio river, was a student of Marshall's code lessons.

Janet: Oh! So Marshall won it for his teaching radio by radio?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Did someone nominate him for that?

Loretta: Yes. The American Radio Relay League. See he was working under their supervision.

Janet: And the award was actually given by CBS? Was the award given by CBS?

Loretta: Given by Paley. I don't know that it was given by CBS, but it was always considered a Paley award.

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: Of course, he was the president of CBS.

Janet: So when he got the award, he went to New York to accept it. Is that right?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And did you go with him?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Can you tell us what that was like? What was the trip to New York like?

Loretta: It was a nice flight.

Eric: Had you ever been on a plane?

Loretta: Before that? I don't know, I can't remember. Not flying that distance anyway.

Janet: Did they have an awards dinner or something for him?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Do you remember where that was held?

Loretta: Waldorf Astoria. They put us up at the Waldorf Astoria.

Janet: Did Ina go also?

Loretta: No, she wasn't known over the radio. Yes, they took us back there and treated us royal.

Janet: So they made the presentation and had the dinner.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And showed you around? Was that your first visit to New York?

Loretta: I guess it was mine, it wasn't Marshall's. They took us up to West Hartford, Connecticut, to the home of the American Relay League. They had a meal up there for us.

Eric: Did you meet lots of people you knew from talking on the radio?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Why wasn't your name on the award also? If you had been involved in teaching the lessons too?

Loretta: No particular reason, except that he was listed as an instructor. The station was listed in his name.

Eric: Do you want to tell us, after Marshall died and you were operating yourself, what did you do?

Loretta: Oh, I didn't do anything. I just operated it for awhile. Fifty years is what I was working for, more than anything else. Stay licensed for 50 years.

Janet: So when you quit, you had reached your 50 years and you were ready to stop?

Loretta: Yes, I was ready to stop.

Eric: So you were still talking to people, you weren't teaching radio code?

Loretta: No, we stopped that after 1940. See there was another war that was coming up after 1940, that was one reason. The code lessons were given to train these amateurs.

Janet: Well, when you started with the station in 1922, you were fairly young. You would have been what? Eighteen?

Loretta: I had a year of high school yet. I was in high school.

Janet: That was quite an accomplishment for a young woman to be a licensed radio operator, wasn't it?

Loretta: At that time, yes. As I was saying at that time there was no YL [Young Ladies] on in this area. This whole central part of the United States.

Janet: Did you have any sense of being a pioneer in all of this?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Opening new roads for women?

Loretta: No, it didn't bother me.

Janet: Didn't see yourself as a women's libber?

Loretta: No.

Eric: Did people ever make fun of you? Did the other guys on the radio make fun of you?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Other than calling you "Old Man"!

Loretta: No, they apologized for that. Calling me "Old Man" and then apologizing.

Janet: Is that something your mom and dad encouraged you to learn, radio?

Loretta: Oh, I guess they did. I always had to do everything Marshall did. He was getting along pretty well. Of course, it worked out for me to operate the station when he started to give those code lessons. When he left, one of us was there. We were able to keep it going for 50 evenings. That's what? Two months?

Janet: Yes, that's a long time. Seven weeks.

Eric: Did you spend a lot of money buying equipment?

Loretta: I didn't, he did! [laughter]

Eric: So it was costly to do that?

Loretta: Oh, yes, it was expensive! Well, it is expensive now. I expect it's cheaper now than it was then in those times.

Eric: So did that ever cause a problem? Or did he just like doing it so much?

Loretta: Oh, he just like doing it so much. Of course, he was drawing a pretty good salary teaching in a city school.

Janet: He started teaching in the Olathe High School the year after he graduated from the high school?

Loretta: Graduated and one winter went back East and the next winter he started teaching.

Janet: Went back East? Where did he go?

Loretta: Maryland.

Janet: To visit his family?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Was that a common practice for teachers to...

Loretta: Those were war years! They couldn't get anybody. That's the reason they got him. Of course, he had made this kitchen cabinet and got an award on that.

Janet: Who gave him the award for this kitchen cabinet? Do you remember? Was it through a country fair...

Loretta: You got it out there in the shop. Seaman(?) Saw Company.

Janet: He made this when he was in high school?

Loretta: When he was a sophomore in high school, now mind you. Get your dad's boys to do that! [talking to Eric]

Eric: Yes, that's a big project!

Janet: Does your dad teach industrial arts?

Eric: Yes.

Janet: So how did World War I change what was happening here on the farm or happening in Olathe or Johnson County? What was the direct impact?

Loretta: Are you talking about WWI or WWII?

Janet: Well, let's start with WWI.

Loretta: How did it change it? I don't know.

Janet: How did it change your life?

Loretta: First thing, wheat was the big crop then. And you know what happened to Berger over here. That was to get wheat money.

Janet: I remember what you told us about the guy who killed...

Eric: Is that on the last tape?

Janet: Yes. The hanging.

Loretta: See, the wheat was a good price then, WWI. Folks were dairying. It made a lot of changes. But it didn't make the changes that WWII did. WWII brought the power to the farmers. The power combines and all that. That was the big change.

Janet: So as a result of WWII you started to get a whole lot more machines, power machines?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: During WWI did grain and dairy products bring good prices?

Loretta: They all went up. Mother always said they would never had gotten this place paid for if it hadn't been for the war. Cause the prices went up. Of course, they were dairying and farming.

Janet: On your 120 acres did you raise wheat also?

Loretta: We raised everything. Once and awhile we would rent a little bit. This across the road he would rent and that down the corner there he rented, I remember.

Janet: So if you had 120 acres, would you have 60 or 80 acres in wheat? Or something like that?

Loretta: More likely less than that. Because he also did it in rotation. That's what keeps your soil up.

Janet: So you raised some wheat and had some corn.

Loretta: Had the cattle. Like I told you we had 50 head of cattle here and no water. That was the year it went dry. Don't remember what year that was. Fifty head of cattle and no water.

Janet: Was this during the depression? During the dust bowl days? Or was it earlier?

Loretta: Dust bowl days.

Janet: So what did you do?

Loretta: Shipped a car load of water out of Kansas City. We didn't have it piped in to a faucet. To be able to turn a faucet then. From the Missouri river, that's where our water comes from.

Janet: So during the dust bowl, in order to save the cattle you shipped water in on the railroad?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Did that save them or did you have...

Loretta: Had to haul it from Bonita to down here. Yes, that saved everything. Of course, you could sell them. Everybody else was selling theirs too. The market wasn't anything.

Janet: How long did your mom and dad dairy?

Loretta: Oh, I don't know.

Janet: Well, your dad had polio, right?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And do you remember about what year that was?

Loretta: A couple of years after we came over here.

Janet: Oh, so that would have been around 1910, '11, or '12, something like that?

Loretta: Something like that.

Janet: How did your mom keep a farm going?

Loretta: We had two hired men.

Eric: Did you have two hired men for a long time?

Loretta: We had one for over a year, I know.

[telephone rings]

Janet: We were talking about when your dad had polio and your mom had some hired men to help her, because you and Marshall were both pretty young at that time. You were just a baby!

Loretta: Marshall could take care of me. That's about all I was good for.

Janet: Before your dad got polio, did they have hired hands then too?

Loretta: Off and on.

Janet: So then when your dad got polio, your mother really had to depend on them?

Loretta: Luckily, she had a college-educated man here. He was here for over a year. And she could depend on him.

Janet: Where did she find these guys to hire? How did she get these men to help her?

Loretta: Oh, down the railroad track or down the road. This fella that I said was a college graduate, we were going to town I remember in the spring wagon, I remember that. We met him on the road up here.

Janet: He just asked if you needed any help?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Do you remember what his name was?

Loretta: Yes, but he had never been on a farm before. Didn't know how to milk, but he learned how to milk.

Janet: What was his name?

Loretta: Frank Cole.

Janet: Frank Cole?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So he stayed around and helped your mom about a year?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Was it just him or was there was somebody else?

Loretta: There was another here too.

Janet: So she had to teach them some of the farm stuff?

Loretta: Oh, sure. Marshall was too little. But we were both just kids.

(continued)

Janet: That was a real hard thing for a woman to have her husband be paralyzed, or with polio, and also have two small children. That seems kind of scary to try and keep the farm going.

Loretta: It was scary.

Eric: Do you think she ever thought of moving?

Loretta: No. That's what I said, Johnson County gave us a livelihood here. Gave us a opportunity to make a livelihood.

Janet: Do you remember your mother ever saying anything about those years?

Loretta: Oh, yes. Pretty hard. She just didn't have time. She was fast, she could work fast. She was faster than I was.

Eric: So she worked a lot outside too then? Did she do a lot of the work outside?

Loretta: The dairy, yes. She didn't do the fields, anything in the field. But the yard and the dairy.

Janet: So when they would get the milk, they.... We talked about getting the ten gallon cans and putting them down into the cistern to keep them cool. And then you would take them up Bonita station to ship the milk.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: How long was your dad down with polio?

Loretta: I don't know. I heard her tell about he would get between the bureau and the foot of that bed up there. Try to walk just like they do today. You know, they get between two parallel bars, he did the same thing. And the men made him canes-- crutches.

Janet: What happened to those crutches? Did you keep them?

Loretta: No. He got so he could get out in the yard. One thing, he never could keep his balance. Lost his balance and never could keep it. He wouldn't go up on anything where he couldn't hold on.

Janet: But he did recover? He was able to walk?

Loretta: Oh, yes, he could work.

Eric: So did he start helping with the dairy again?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: When did he start getting better?

Loretta: I don't know.

Janet: When you had hired men, did they live in the house with you, also? Which of the bedrooms upstairs?

Loretta: The little one.

Janet: The little one at the top of the steps?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Was that ever frightening to have strange men in the house?

Loretta: We had some incidents, yes. Our door was always locked at night.

Janet: Were all the family sleeping in one bedroom?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Which one, is that the one you're in [largest one]?

Loretta: Yes. One guy took the screen out of the window and walked across the porch and looked in before the door was there. Looked in the window in our room. He left his foot prints along the paper. He didn't know he was doing that. That's the kind, you didn't know what the tramps were like following the railroad.

Janet: That's why I'm asking, it seems real frightening to me for your mom to be in that situation. To hire people you really don't know at all and have them living in your house. A sick husband and two small children.

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Did any of them ever steal anything from you? Or hurt anybody like that?

Loretta: One of them took Papa's watch and chain. He had a big ole silver chain and a gold-silver watch. And

he wouldn't come back to the house. Since we had a telephone here. He took Papa's watch and chain and left. She was scared of them. They would follow that railroad up there and come down this far. Come down here begging for something to eat. Just plain tramps, that's what they were.

Janet: If somebody came by and just wanted something to eat, did she feed them or did she make them do work for their dinner?

Loretta: Oh, she generally feed them. Give them something to eat.

Eric: Did that happen fairly often?

Loretta: Oh, there was a period there that quite a few followed the railroad.

Eric: When would that have been?

Loretta: It was pretty early, I don't know if it was before WWI or after.

Janet: You mentioned that the door that is in your bedroom used to be just a window. When was that made into a door?

Loretta: When they put this porch on. Papa made that window into a door.

Janet: When was the porch put on, this back porch? See I ask you all these years, you have to remember all these years!

Eric: Didn't you say that was pretty early?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: This was the first change you made to the house, right? Wasn't it?

Loretta: Yes. That well-cover there, what's the date on that well-cover, 1915?

Eric: I don't know; I don't think I've seen it.

Loretta: I think that's what it is. That was about the time the porch was put on.

Janet: So some where in the mid-1910's?

Loretta: Yes.

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Janet: So you cut the door; made the window into a door at that time, so you could go out on the porch?

Loretta: Shake your clothes and blankets out there. We used to go out there and sleep. Take a rug out there...

Janet: All of you did? When it got real hot?

Loretta: Lay down on the floor until it got too cold and then come back in.

Janet: So all summer when it's hot, all four of you would go out and sleep on the porch?

Loretta: No, Marshall and I would go out. Mama would never come out. Papa once and awhile, he would come out. Marshall got interested in the stars then.

Janet: That would be a pretty nice place to sleep, nice and cool.

Eric: I have some questions.

Janet: Ask away!

Eric: Do you know out in the barn there's that movie projector?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Do you know where it came from?

Loretta: That projector was used in Kansas City.

Eric: How did Marshall get it?

Loretta: Oh, somebody brought it out and left it out here. I was trying to think of when it was used in Kansas City. Same way with that headlight right there [outside of the radio room]. That headlight is off a street car in Kansas City.

Janet: Was it off the old Strang Line?

Loretta: No, off a street car in Kansas City.

Janet: But not the Strang?

Loretta: No.

Eric: Somewhere I think when I was reading the thesis, it talked about, I couldn't tell if it was Marshall or someone must have worked at the local Dickinson Theater. That wasn't Marshall?

Loretta: No, Marshall wouldn't be working in a theater.

Eric: Somebody else then?

Loretta: When did you get a hold of that?

Eric: There was something in the conversation of one of the lessons in the thesis. They were talking about the theater and somebody mentioned working there.

Loretta: Well, some of those boys did work there.

Eric: Maybe it was that.

Janet: One day when we were out here after we had done one of the interviews, you said you wanted to tell us the story of making ice cream. So I wanted to ask you about that.

Loretta: No, always got through...we didn't combine, we harvested then. Cut the wheat and shocked it. You know what that is?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: Well, we always tried to be done by the 4th of July.

Janet: Harvesting the wheat?

Loretta: No, not harvesting. Just cutting it. Cutting it and shocking it. And Mama always made ice cream. Take a chunk of ice and put it in a bucket. She would make ice cream. Didn't have a freezer. Make the ice cream and put it in a gallon bucket. Molasses came in gallon buckets in those days. Put it in your bucket and put in your ice and salt. After it got to freeze, she would open it up and beat it. Of course, the kids would get a spoon and get in there!

Eric: Where did you store your ice at?

Loretta: We got it in town.

Janet: So you would go into town, especially for that?

Loretta: Whenever we were in town we would get a chuck of ice.

Janet: So ice cream on the 4th of July was a real tradition?

Loretta: Yes. When we'd get through cutting the wheat by the 4th of July, then comes the combining, that was the big thing.

Eric: Sometime you told me about the thresher and the separator, can you tell us what the differences are between them?

Loretta: The difference between the thresher and the separator?

Eric: Yes. How did they work together?

Loretta: The thresher is the engine and the separator is what separates the wheat and the straw. But the thresher, those big old steam engines had a big belt running between the steam engine and the separator, the belt operated the separator. They fired up that old steam engine in the mornings when the threshing crew or the engine crew got here, they'd be out there pulling on the whistle and let everybody in the neighborhood know they were here.

Janet: Cause it was just like one guy or one family would own a thresher and they would travel to all the farms and help with the harvest?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Do you remember who was your local threshing man?

Loretta: Oh, what's our neighbor's name up here?

Eric: I'm sorry, I don't know.

Loretta: Dick....

Eric: Where at?

Loretta: Up on the corner. That's a grandson or great grandson or something. [Pause] Dick Laughlin.

Janet: Laughlin?

Loretta: He was the one. He and his brother Frank. Papa had him a couple of times. But Dick was the one, he'd always have him, but I don't know why.

Janet: So, Dick would bring his steam engine out and toot the whistle so everyone would hear? So, a lot of your neighbors would come and help with the threshing?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: So, it was a community effort?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: Because it was a lot of work, is that why?

Loretta: Oh, yes. That's why. You had to have a lot of wagons to haul that sheaves of wheat in from the field.

Janet: Where were you hauling it to, where did you bring it?

Loretta: Threw the straw stack east of the barn there quite often.

Janet: In the east end of the peg barn?

Loretta: East of the barn, in that lot down there.

Janet: So, you just put it outside the barn?

Loretta: Yes, put it anywhere.

Janet: And what about the wheat itself, where did it go?

Loretta: Oh, it went in the wagon and as I said before, the government didn't store the wheat like it does now. You used to store your own wheat. That's how the murder got over there. They stored their wheat after the threshing and the hired hand killed them and then started to haul the wheat away.

Janet: So, you would thresh it, dump the straw in the east lot over by the pegged barn. The wheat itself was in a wagon and where did the wagon go or what happened to the wheat then?

Loretta: Papa would put it in the bin.

Eric: What bin, is there a bin?

Loretta: Over head, out in the machine shed.

Janet: He stored the wheat, the grain, above in the loft, in the machine shed?

Loretta: Yes, that's one place. We generally have wheat in one end and oats in the other.

Janet: Was it just laid loose up there? Or bagged up?

Loretta: Just laying loose. You handle it with a scoop shovel.

Eric: Now you said the wheat was normally stored on the west end of the machine shed?

Loretta: Down on the west end. Wheat on one side and oats on the other.

Eric: OK.

Janet: How did you get the wheat or oats up there? Were they blown up there with that chute? Or how did you get them up there?

Loretta: Muscle, muscle!

Janet: Shovel?

Loretta: Shovel it up there!

Eric: The wagon that you had isn't out here, is it?

Loretta: No.

Eric: It had to be something that would...

Loretta: Box. Wagon box.

Janet: That's going to be pretty hard to shovel it up above your head and into those lofts. So, you would have this Laughlin man harvest your dad's wheat and the neighbors would come and help and then the next day this man would go some place else and your dad would go help one of the neighbors with theirs?

Loretta: Highest number I remember of men that we had was at silo-filling time. I remember we had 23 once, 23. Wouldn't you like to feed 23 harvest hands?

Eric: So, did your mom do that, she'd make a meal?

Janet: You'd help your mom? Did the wives come and help with this, too?

Loretta: Oh, sometimes, sometimes, they'd have a social affair out of it.

Janet: If some of the wives did come, what would they all be doing while all the men would be outside, gossiping? [laughter]

Eric: Probably. [laugh]

Loretta: Make pies, cakes, fried chicken, mashed potatoes. Mashed potatoes if you had beans or corn.

Janet: That's a lot of work then, sounds like it might have been some...

Loretta: When the temperature is a 105.

Janet: Well, maybe not. [laughter]

Eric: Twenty-three people. You couldn't all eat inside, could you?

Loretta: That was one thing that porch was used for. We were so glad we got that. We'd yell out the kitchen.

Janet: So, women would be in here preparing and serve the men out on the porch?

Loretta: Yes, we'd have a table out on the porch.

Janet: You'd still have to do a couple of shifts, wouldn't you? To feed 23?

Loretta: Yes, to feed 23. That was when we would have the silo-filling. We wouldn't have that many for threshing. But ah, we had a table full. That table, we'd stretch that table out.

Eric: Do you want to tell us about the--oh, go ahead.

Loretta: I said that table, I should have said this table.

Janet: This kitchen table would be put out there and how many more leaves...

Loretta: This is a dining table not a kitchen table.

Janet: So, how many more leaves could you put into this table?

Loretta: I don't know how many more leaves there are. You cleaned out that summer kitchen over there. How many more leaves are out there?

Eric: That's what that box is with the...

Janet: Okay, there were a couple more maybe.

Loretta: You didn't run off with those leaves, did you?

Eric: No, they're out there.

Janet: Well, I need to be go to another meeeting. Thank you Loretta for letting us talk today.

August 31, 1988

Janet: I think we will talk about holiday celebrations.

Loretta: Birthdays?

Janet: How did you celebrate birthdays? Was there any special...

Loretta: Oh, everybody had a birthday cake. Why every birthday, they had a cake. We all had our own kind of cakes we wanted. Mine was chocolate. We celebrated birthdays all right!

Janet: Did everybody have chocolate cake or did they have their own favorite?

Loretta: No, why when their birthday came around, they had their own favorites.

Janet: What kind was your mom's favorite and your dad's?

Loretta: Mother's was coconut. She would get the real coconuts and make...

Janet: Oh, she would buy the whole coconut and cut it up herself?

Loretta: Buy the real coconut! Take the milk out of it and cut the coconut up. Grate it. That was real good in comparison with this stuff you buy in the store. Father's was sponge cake; he liked sponge cake.

Janet: How about Marshall?

Loretta: His was fruit cake.

Janet: Fruit cake?

Loretta: He didn't like angel food cake; there wasn't nothing to it.

Janet: Just all air!

Loretta: All air!

Janet: So, Marshall had fruit cake, Dad had sponge cake, your mother had coconut and Loretta liked chocolate?

Loretta: That's the way we did it at Christmas, too. We got all of it at one time at Christmas. All four at one time at Christmas. We had birthday presents.

Janet: For birthdays, did you always have a family dinner in the evening?

Loretta: Yes, of course we had a family dinner everyday.

Eric: Were there other people that you invited over?

Loretta: No, not often.

Eric: Not often?

Loretta: Sometimes there would be some kids come in.

Janet: Where there any other special foods for birthdays? Did the birthday person get to pick anything?

Loretta: No, not special. That was about all the celebration we did.

Janet: Did you put candles on the cake?

Loretta: No, we had candles at Christmas time is all.

Janet: So no candles on the birthday cake? Did you always sing "Happy Birthday"?

Loretta: Sometimes we did; I don't think we always did.

Janet: Do you remember any special birthday presents you got? Anything that was your favorite?

Loretta: No, I don't remember. At Thanksgiving we generally talked about what Thanksgiving was. Father always read out of the Bible and same way with Christmas. The first Christmas we celebrated real. We had a Christmas tree.

Janet: Where did you put your Christmas tree?

Loretta: In the room.

Janet: In the sitting room?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Not in the parlor?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: In the sitting room, in the bay window?

Loretta: Yes, one time Marshall got interested and made a bell. He used the hooks off of salt barrels and

made the shape of a bell. Made a bell and covered it with evergreens. The pine trees--cedar trees--and hung it up in there. It was something different.

Janet: Did you always go out on the farm and cut down your Christmas tree? Or where did you get your Christmas tree?

Loretta: Oh, we just hauled off a cedar tree. By that time a sleet storm had broke half the limbs off the trees. There wasn't no use getting a Christmas tree, we had them right here.

Janet: So just whatever kind of cedar tree or pine tree was on the farm, you just cut one down?

Loretta: Just cedar trees, red cedars is all we have here.

Janet: Was there a particular time when you put up the Christmas tree? Some people put it up on Christmas Eve.

Loretta: Always left it till after New Year's. Nowadays they always put it up so early and get it down so quick after Christmas.

Janet: When did you put up your Christmas tree?

Loretta: Oh, when we got around to it.

Janet: Oh, OK.

Loretta: Not too long before Christmas.

Janet: Maybe a week or something?

Loretta: A few days. Always had it up till after New Year's. You back Christmas up with New Year's.

Janet: What kind of decorations did you put on the tree? Do you remember?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: Do you still have any of them?

Loretta: Popcorn, of course. We made paper rings, chains, and we had candles. Now our candles were quite a dangerous kind, candle decorations. It was real fire, it was real candles.

Janet: Did you have the kind that clipped onto the branches or ...

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Clip on?

Loretta: Yes. Candle holder clipped onto the branches.

Janet: Did you make any other kinds of decorations for the tree, besides popcorn and paper chains?

Loretta: Made stars. You know in those days there wasn't such a thing as aluminum foil. We had tin foil and you saved every little piece of tin foil. The hired man was good chewer and he wrapped his tobacco up in tin foil. When he threw it away, why we got that.

Eric: You made stars with that?

Loretta: Cover. Make a cardboard star and cover with that tin foil.

Janet: Glue the tin foil onto the cardboard base?

Loretta: Bend it over it.

Janet: Well, that would be pretty; it would reflect the candle glow.

Eric: Did you put anything in particular on top of the tree?

Loretta: Always had a star on top. But, you made quite a bit over Christmas. Of course, our family was the only family. Us four were the only ones in the family to get together.

Janet: Well, did you ever have people from Maryland visit here or did you visit there for Christmas? Or were you always right here?

Loretta: Maryland was a long ways off in those days.

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: Got down to Kansas City and you got into Union Station and you got a train and the ole train spit out cinders and everything. Let's see, Marshall came home after he spent the fall back there after he graduated from high school. He came home the day before Christmas and the service men were on the car at that time. He had to ride his suitcase all the way from Baltimore to Kansas City.

(Laughter)

Janet: I'm trying to think of the year he graduated. He was born in what year?

Loretta: [18]99.

Janet: Ninety-nine, so that would have been 1917? Is that when he graduated from high school?

Loretta: I guess it was.

Janet: So did you all go down to Union Station to pick him up?

Loretta: How do you think we got down there? Drove the ole work horse down?

Janet: How did he get home then?

Loretta: Well, I imagine he came out on the local. I don't remember.

Janet: So you just had to go up to Bonita and get him?

Loretta: You could hoof it from Bonita!

Janet: He hoofed it? OK.

Loretta: People could walk in those days. Today they can't.

Janet: Yeah, I guess that wouldn't be too far to come down from Bonita.

Loretta: He walked up to Bonita diagonally across the fields. One morning when the temperature was 20 below zero...

(laughter)

Eric: Where was he going?

Loretta: To school, high school.

Eric: They let out school now if it gets that cold.

Loretta: You can get out of school for nothing at all hardly.

Janet: Get out because it's too hot or too cold.

Loretta: Yes, I hear Shawnee Mission [School District] has changed their schedule this year.

Janet: For the heat.

Loretta: Because of the heat and now it's turned cold!

Janet: I know this week has been nice and comfortable.

Loretta: Now it's turned cold.

Janet: What did you stand your Christmas tree up in? What held it up?

Loretta: I don't remember what Marshall used to use. But I used these urns. Turn these urns upside down and sink a Christmas tree in them.

Eric: Then you didn't put water in with it?

Loretta: No, for quite a few years now, I've put my Christmas tree on the porch. You know when it sits in the house it dries out. And it gets nice and dirty and so forth. When I used to decorate with this cedar, I just put cedar maybe up on the clock shelf or maybe up on the light above us [in the kitchen].

Janet: Just bring in some of the bows and kind of drape them?

Loretta: And if it stayed there a week, why it would dry and begin to shatter.

Janet: Yes, it's always fun to clean up after Christmas, isn't it? All the needles everywhere! Did you have a tree skirt or did you drape any kind of fabric around the base of the tree?

Loretta: Oh, yes. Whatever we happened to have at the time.

Janet: What about... I'm trying to think, families celebrate Christmas so differently. I'm just trying to understand how you celebrated. Did you have anything special that you did on Christmas Eve? When did you open presents? Did Santa come for a Christmas visit?

Loretta: Christmas morning. Ask me how I found out about Santa Claus!

Janet: OK, how did that happen?

Loretta: You know that register in the floor upstairs?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: I was smart enough to look down there when I heard things going on below.

Janet: How old were you when you found out?

Loretta: I was pretty good size, old enough to figure that out. I could see what was going on downstairs. Marshall surely knew about it, but he never gave it away. That's how I found out; I heard the folks downstairs. I wanted to see what was going on and I looked down the register.

Janet: And you saw it was just your mom and dad?

Loretta: Saw it was just my mom and dad stuffing stockings. I think I was old enough to figure it out anyway.

Janet: But that just confirmed it, right?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So, Santa visited on Christmas Eve after you and Marshall had gone to bed? Or were supposed to be.

Loretta: Christmas morning, whichever it happened to be.

Janet: And then you got up on Christmas morning and opened gifts?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Did you open gifts first thing, or did you have breakfast first? What was the tradition?

Loretta: We couldn't have eaten much before; I guess we opened them before breakfast. Mother was after us not to eat much candy or it would ruin our meal. I remember that.

Janet: Was there anything that you always got in your Christmas stocking? Was there something you knew you would find in the Christmas stocking?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Well, Maggi was telling us she always got a toothbrush in her Christmas stocking.

Loretta: Toothbrush!

Janet: Yes. So I was just wondering if there was something that was always in your Christmas stocking. An orange or anything that was always in there?

Loretta: Oranges were very scarce. We always had an orange or two. Oranges were very scarce then. We had nuts.

Janet: What else might be in your stocking?

Loretta: Nuts and candy. I think that's about all.

Janet: What did you use as a Christmas stocking? Did you have a special stocking?

Loretta: Marshall had a special stocking that's upstairs there; you've probably seen it.

Janet: Is it up in the closet?

Loretta: No, it's hanging up, up there in the bedroom. But his cousin gave it to him his first Christmas. And you probably heard the verse, "Hang up the baby's stocking; be sure you don't forget. The little dimple darling hasn't seen Christmas yet." That's on that stocking.

Janet: Oh!

Loretta: I would hang up the stocking that I would have my foot in. The ones I wore.

Janet: Oh, you just hung up...

Loretta: One of my own stockings.

Janet: Did your mom and dad hang up stockings?

Loretta: I don't know that they did, I don't remember.

Janet: Where did you hang the stockings?

Loretta: Around the Christmas tree, on the Christmas tree.

Janet: Oh, they were on the tree? Not on the mantle?

Loretta: Oh, no, we kept out of that front room; it was an iceberg in there. We stayed out of that room in the winter time.

Janet: So, the stockings were hung right on the tree itself?

Loretta: Right on the tree.

Janet: Did Marshall use his stocking every year, the same one?

Loretta: Yes, he used that stocking. Oh, that's all there is to it.

Janet: Well, I have another question about Christmas. So after you've opened your presents, then did you have a big breakfast on Christmas or were you saving up your appetite for a big lunch?

Loretta: We had a big breakfast.

Janet: Was there any kind of special stuff? Or just a rather regular breakfast?

Loretta: Just a regular meal. You know what hog pudding is? You know what pudding is? Hog pudding?

Eric: Hog pudding? No, I don't think so.

Loretta: Head cheese.

Janet: Oh, head cheese, okay.

Loretta: About the same thing. But the folks out here call it head cheese. And pearl hominy. Neither one of you know what pearl hominy is for sure.

Janet: Is it just like regular hominy? What is it?

Loretta: Oh, it has to be soaked and cooked. They use it there in the east. Even the small mills make it. It's kind of cracked hominy. It's different from hominy you folks out here know.

Janet: So it's cracked hominy that they grind first and then you soak it and cook it?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Is it made kind of like grits, or like hot cereal?

Loretta: Like a hot cereal.

Eric: You ate that with the pudding?

Janet: So, that's what you had for Christmas breakfast?

Loretta: Breakfast.

Janet: Breakfast all the time?

Loretta: Breakfast all winter.

Janet: Hog pudding and pearl hominy?

Eric: Is that something your mother really liked or something easy to make?

Loretta: Traditional, you might say. Folks out here didn't use that kind of head cheese as they call it mostly now.

Janet: Are you saying folks out here didn't eat very much head cheese?

Loretta: They didn't use pudding like we did.

Janet: So was that a tradition your mom and dad brought with them from Maryland?

Loretta: Traditionally brought with them.

Janet: And that was a winter-time breakfast?

Loretta: After you butchered, that's what you had for breakfast every morning. What you cooked the head cheese in, the broth, mix corn meal in it and fry it like mush.

Janet: Oh.

Loretta: That was good too!

Janet: Did you like head cheese or hog pudding?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: Is that something your mom always made?

Loretta: Something we always had.

Janet: Did you have toast with it? Or coffee? Was there anything else?

Loretta: You're talking about toast, you know we didn't have toasters in those days. You didn't toast it. You put it on the end of a fork and go hold it over the coals in the wood stove. That's the way you got your toast. Well, you could put it in the oven. But that wasn't as good as holding it over the coals and toasting it.

Janet: You had to have a steady hand, so you could get the bread toasted but not burn your hand.

Loretta: You have to have the fire right too. But you could put it in the oven and toast it that way. Dry it at least.

Eric: During other times of the year, would you eat something else?

Janet: What were the breakfasts like when you're not eating that?

Loretta: Summer time, fried tomatoes and cornmeal mush. That would be one good breakfast meal.

Eric: What about bacon and eggs?

Loretta: Well, we would have the eggs all right, but the folks never went for bacon. They didn't use bacon.

Janet: Did you all make sausage? When you butchered?

Loretta: We never had coffee; we didn't have coffee.

Janet: No, I said sausage. Did you make sausage when you butchered?

Loretta: Make what?

Janet: Sausage.

Loretta: Oh, sausage. Yes, we had sausage. We would butcher a beef; we would have beef too. After you got through with the pork why we would go to the beef.

Janet: When did you usually butcher? Was there a particular time?

Loretta: Fall.

Janet: Any particular day?

Loretta: No, no particular day.

Janet: My dad used to butcher right before Christmas. It would irritate my mother because she was trying to do everything else and he was trying to butcher right before Christmas! (laughter)

Loretta: As soon as it got cold enough to keep.

Janet: Did you say that you butchered the hogs first and then the beef?

Loretta: The hogs first and the beef probably after Christmas.

Janet: How many hogs did you usually butcher for your family?

Loretta: Oh, I don't know. I suspect we butchered about 2 or 3.

Janet: Where did they do it?

Loretta: Out in the grove.

Janet: Out in the orchard area?

Loretta: Across the fence out there.

Janet: Did your dad have other friends or other neighbors come in and help him with butchering?

Loretta: After he got older, he would take the hogs to a family in Ocheltree that would butcher them. He would take them down there or a couple of times he got the neighbors to come in and butcher them for him.

Janet: Did you ever help with the butchering? Was there anything that your mom did?

Loretta: Well, no. Both of us were in school. Do you know about taking the bladder and drying it and blowing it up and put a couple of...

Eric: I think I've done that.

Janet: And what would you do with it?

Loretta: Put a couple grains of corn in it and let it dry. Blow it up and let it dry.

Eric: Oh, no, I haven't done that before. To make a rattle?

Loretta: To make a rattle.

Janet: I thought you were going to say blow it up and pop it to make a loud noise.

Loretta: Oh, no, to play with. It was lightweight and you could flop it around.

Janet: Your family made hog head cheese or hog pudding. Did they ever make things like pickled pigs feet?

Loretta: Oh, yes. That's one way to eat pigs feet.

Janet: Your mom did that?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Were there any parts of the hog that you threw away, that you wouldn't eat?

Loretta: Yes, of course there were, the insides!

Eric: Well, my grandfather was like, "Can't throw that away, save it!"

Loretta: The innards?

Eric: No, not all that stuff.

Janet: My dad used to eat the brains. Did your family?

Loretta: Oh, yes, we always had the brains.

(laughter)

Janet: He would have scrambled eggs and scrambled brains.

Loretta: I don't know, we never scrambled them together. I know some folks do. We would fry the brains.

Janet: Was that something you ate as a breakfast food?

Loretta: Yes. Oh, we didn't live off breakfast food in those days like they do now.

Janet: I was just wondering if fried brains was something you ate for breakfast or if it was a...

Loretta: Yes, we had it for breakfast with the hominy and probably with the pudding too.

Eric: You said you and Marshall were in school. You mean they didn't do it [butchering] on a Saturday when you were around?

Loretta: No.

Janet: So your dad and neighbors helping him would butcher the hogs here and they would process everything right here? Originally?

Eric: Did they do that in the summer kitchen?

Loretta: No.

Eric: No? Where did they do that?

Loretta: In the kitchen.

Janet: Brought it in here and cut it up? Then wrap the hams and stuff?

Loretta: It was warm enough that they could cut it up outside. You never let your meat freeze.

Janet: The little meat house, that's out here, was that for hanging up hams and stuff?

Loretta: That's after they're cured. That's not a smokehouse. A smokehouse is where you put your meat to smoke it and cure it. That's where you kept it, you might say. It was a meat house. After it was cured, you put it there.

Janet: How did you cure your meat then?

Loretta: Well, in later years Father used the liquid smoke.

Janet: Before that, what did he do?

Loretta: Salt, he did some salt then.

Janet: So you would have like your ham or shoulder and you rub it with salt? Were there other things like brown sugar or pepper or anything that you would rub on it too?

Loretta: Yes, I think there was.

Janet: Then you just wrapped them up and...

Loretta: Put 'em in a barrel and let them sit so long.

Janet: Oh, you put them in a barrel to cure?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Okay. Then where did those sit? After you put the hams in the barrel, where did the barrel sit?

Loretta: In the meat house. And if you noticed the hooks in that meat house, I say those themselves are something rare. They're nails bent to look like hooks.

Janet: The meat house is not that large. So you would have a couple of barrels sitting on the floor with hams and stuff in them?

Loretta: Yes, on the floor. On the shelves there, you would lay the ribs on anything else you wanted to.

Janet: Was there a special way to cure the ribs or anything?

Loretta: Nothing, generally ate those before the weather changed.

Janet: What? You would have to eat those while it was still cold?

Loretta: We ate them all winter. We lived good in the winter time.

Janet: Then the hams and shoulders were cured so that they would last once the weather started warming up?

Loretta: Yes, you painted them with liquid smoke.

Janet: Other than using the liquid smoke, did you ever smoke your hams?

Loretta: Didn't have any place to smoke them.

Janet: So it was mostly a salt cure?

Loretta: Just a salt cure.

Janet: After they've been in the barrel for a while, did you take them out and wrap them and hang them on the hooks?

Loretta: Didn't wrap them, just hung them up. Used the smoke-salt on them, that kept the varmits away.

Janet: How long did you keep them in the barrels?

Loretta: I don't know, don't remember.

Janet: When you processed the beef, how was that processed?

Loretta: Those quarters would hang would up in the north side of this barn down here.

Janet: The peg barn?

Loretta: Yes. Hang up a quarter there and go down and cut off a piece.

Eric: You had to cure it too with the salt?

Loretta: Afterwards, yes, you cured it with salt. You always had corned beef and ... I can't think.

Janet: So you would kill one cow, usually?

Loretta: One calf, yes.

Janet: Then you quarter it and hang it up in the north end of the peg barn?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Then would you try and eat most of the beef before the weather warmed up?

Loretta: Oh, no, we canned a lot. When it's cured for corned beef, it would keep.

Janet: Did you put your corned beef in the stone crock? Is that how you did it or how did you make your corned beef?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: In the crocks?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: I guess eating was pretty good in the winter time!

Loretta: Yes, you had to eat good.

Janet: What about in the summer? If you're eating a lot of this good butchered meat in the winter, then in the summer what did you eat?

Loretta: Well, we canned a lot of beef. When you cured it with the liquid smoke, that would cure it. Preserve it.

Janet: Then in the summer, you're eating the stuff you canned or preserved? Did you eat a lot of chicken in the summer?

Loretta: Oh yes, had a lot of chicken out here.

Eric: What about fish? Did you ever do that?

Loretta: Not very much. Maybe catch a few out of the pond over here.

Eric: They never went anywhere with a net, fishing? No?

Loretta: No.

Eric: They did that where I grew up.

Janet: Oh, really. Well, we kind of got side tracked from Christmas.

Eric: I had some questions about Christmas. What kind of presents did you get?

Loretta: What kind? Wearing apparel mostly. Folks then didn't have a lot of money to waste on a lot of junk.

Eric: You did get some toys sometimes, didn't you?

Loretta: Oh, we got some toys, but they were substantial toys.

Janet: Is that teddy bear that's upstairs, was that a Christmas present?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: How old were you when you got that? Do you remember?

Loretta: Pretty young.

Janet: A little girl?

Eric: What about the wagon in the north barn?

Loretta: That was one of Marshall's Christmas presents. That teddy bear must have been about 1912. That would make me eight years old. That's about his age. One year we used a mirror, a hand mirror, and laid it down on the floor. Then put teddy bear looking in it. A bear looking in the lake!

Janet: Oh! What kinds of presents did you give your mom and dad? Was it stuff that you made? Did you give them clothes?

Loretta: One year I made mother a card, a drawing, as a kid in school. Sears & Roebuck's was a good place to shop in those days.

Janet: Did you get the Sears catalog?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: Did you sit and look through it quite a bit?

Loretta: Oh, sure. Sure.

Janet: Did your mom and dad order things out of Sears catalog for Christmas?

Loretta: Oh, yes. We didn't run to the stores, like you do today.

Janet: Did you ever get books for Christmas?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: So clothes and books and...

(continued)

Loretta: I remember the year that Marshall got his ball; he got a ball, glove, and bat. We went out east of the house and played ball. In the sunlight here next to the house it was a nice place to play ball.

Janet: He got that for Christmas?

Loretta: He got that Christmas morning and later that afternoon we went out there in the sun away from the wind.

Janet: How old was he? Do you remember?

Loretta: Oh, just a boy.

Janet: Were there any Christmas presents that stick out in your mind, special things you ever got, like a teddy bear?

Loretta: When we were little, Papa's brother's family-- Grandmother lived, his mother lived with them or they lived with her, I don't know which way you would put it. And we used to always exchange gifts with them. I remember they got my Grandmother an aluminum pan, my folks did, got Grandma an aluminum pan. That's when aluminum pans were new and they said she wouldn't use it. It was too pretty.

Janet: Too special?

Eric: How did you exchange--those were people who lived in Maryland--how did you exchange with them?

Loretta: Parcel post. Parcel post wasn't as expensive as it is now. It's gone to the sky now.

Janet: Did you have gift exchange at school ever?

Loretta: Yes, they used to exchange some little presents.

Janet: Like what, all kinds of stuff?

Loretta: Oh, I really don't know, just kids stuff.

Eric: Little cars or...

Loretta: Just something that interested kids.

Janet: When you were in school, did you have anything like a Christmas pageant or something kind of

special? What did you do at school at Christmas time?

Loretta: Let's see, we always had something at school.

Janet: What kind of a thing was it?

Loretta: A program. The Friday afternoon before Christmas. Maybe some of the parents would come.

Janet: Do a little play or...

Loretta: A little play or sing a song.

Eric: Did you ever do anything at church?

Loretta: I don't know. I guess we did at church too. At Eureka, of course, father was superintendent of Sunday School and Mother had the kindergarten. It's just about the same thing as you have today.

Janet: When you were living on this farm, did you go to Church service on Christmas day or Christmas Eve?

Loretta: No. When you're 4 or 6 miles from town and you have to drive an old work horse, it takes a while to get there. I can't remember any church programs, but I guess there were.

Janet: After you got up on Christmas morning and you opened your presents and had breakfast, then what did you do the rest of the day?

Loretta: Like I said, the year he [Marshall] got his ball, bat and glove we went out here and played ball. On the east side of the house, where we were protected from the wind. In the sun, we played ball.

Janet: What was Christmas dinner like? Did your mom fix something special for Christmas dinner?

Loretta: Yes, of course we always had cake.

Janet: Each of you had your own special cake?

Loretta: Of course, she would fix up something special. Oh, cranberries was one thing we always had.

Eric: Did you have turkey then?

Loretta: No.

Eric: No?

Loretta: No, I don't remember the meat especially. But if we just butchered in the fall, we had butchered meat.

Janet: But the cranberries were special?

Loretta: Cranberries were special.

Janet: How about oysters or anything like that?

Loretta: Yes, my folks were from the east coast and they liked oysters.

Janet: Did she make fried oysters or oyster dressing or how did she fix them?

Loretta: Fried oysters. I don't know if she ever made oyster dressing. We used fried oysters. We had scalloped oysters, too.

Eric: Did your father read the Bible before dinner?

Loretta: Father always read the Bible every morning after breakfast. Not just Christmas, but every day.

Janet: Did he read it aloud, while everyone was listening?

Loretta: Read it aloud. Even the hired man got brought in on it.

Eric: Even if he didn't want to, huh?

Loretta: Even if he didn't want to!

Janet: So having cranberries, oysters, and everybody's favorite cake would have made the Christmas dinner special?

Loretta: Yes, I don't know if we ever had any special meat. But after the butchering, we had meat.

Janet: Yes, you probably had a lot of it.

Eric: Did the hired hand participate in your Christmas celebration?

Loretta: I guess, if he didn't go home. I can't remember any hired hand being there.

Eric: You want to move on to Halloween?

Loretta: That didn't mean anything to us except at school, but not at home.

Eric: Did you dress up at school?

Loretta: No.

Eric: So that wasn't a big deal at all?

Loretta: What, dressing up?

Eric: Or Halloween?

Loretta: No. We had something or other at school is all. Didn't mean anything here at home.

Janet: I thought about something else about Christmas, did your mom ever make Christmas cookies?

Loretta: Cookies and candy. Coconut would be one kind. Chocolate.

Janet: Fudge, did she make fudge? Were the cookies she made, were they sugar cookies, the cut-out kind? What kind did she make?

Loretta: She had cookie cutters that would make those fancy ones. We got every kind.

Janet: Did you have a favorite kind she made?

Loretta: No, nothing special.

Janet: Just anything?

Loretta: Kids will eat anything.

Janet: So did she start her Christmas baking early in December? Were you eating that kind of stuff all month?

Loretta: She had to start her baking early to get it done. When you milked 15 cows or so. It took a while before you got through.

Janet: Well, you said you always wanted to leave the tree up until New Year's, was there any special New Year's celebration?

Loretta: Just limited to our Christmas. We had candy. A little celebration there at New Year's.

Janet: Have another special dinner?

Loretta: Something.

Eric: Did you stay up until midnight?

Loretta: After we got the radio we would stay up and listen to what came on the radio.

Eric: What kinds of things did they talk about on the radio on New Year's?

Loretta: Oh, just about like they do now.

Janet: The count down?

Loretta: The count down. Where was it that they used to light that...New York?

Janet: Yes. Times Square.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So New Year's was a continuation of Christmas till New Year's day?

Loretta: The day after New Year's the Christmas tree came down.

Janet: Did you save any of your Christmas tree decorations from year to year?

Loretta: Oh, yes.

Janet: What were the other kinds of decorations beside popcorn, paper chains and stars that you may have used?

Loretta: Well, of course the candles; they are quite a decoration themselves. We didn't have construction paper like they do today. We would save up any colored heavy paper that we got a hold of during the year and maybe use that. Make red ornament of some kind and put them on the tree.

Eric: Did you have any glass ornaments or...

Loretta: Glass ornaments? No.

Janet: Did you have any bows or ribbons?

Loretta: Yes, sometimes we would do something like that.

Janet: Did you ever put any of your mom's sugar cookies on the tree?

Loretta: No.

Janet: So it was just popcorn?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Never cranberries? You always ate those?

Loretta: They got cooked; they cost money.

Janet: Do you by chance have any of the Christmas tree ornaments that you used to use? Do you have any of them?

Loretta: I have those candles. I don't know if I have any that goes back that far.

Janet: When we were in school we used to make Christmas ornaments and then we would take them home. My mom would hang them on the tree. She still has those! So I just wondered if you had anything like that, that you made in school.

Loretta: No, I don't think there are. I cleaned things out. They take up space.

Janet: Well let's see, what's the next holiday on the list?

Eric: Family reunions.

Loretta: I wanted to talk about the 80,000 word thesis.

Janet: Oh, okay. Well, if you want to talk about that, we can go to that.

Loretta: That's what I wanted to get started on to match up with what you had.

Janet: OK.

Loretta: I didn't go in to that.

Janet: OK, well, why don't you tell us about that.

Loretta: That covered teaching radio by radio. We gave it all together about 10 years. Every winter we gave 50 lessons, teaching radio by radio. That year, he knew his master's [thesis] was coming up. Each lesson he would write it up. When he got through he had an 80,000 word thesis. One of his immediate instructors had been a radio man in the service and some of the higher-ups asked him, "Can he do that?" and the answer was, "He's already done it."

Janet: He's already taught radio by radio, is that right?

Loretta: He's already done it. But that's the way he got that thesis written up. He wrote it every night for 50 nights.

Janet: Where was he working on his master's degree?

Loretta: Pittsburg, Kansas. You want to make it Kansas around here because some of these folks never heard of Pittsburg, Kansas.

Janet: Yes, they think of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.

Loretta: It's a Kansas State Teacher's College.

Janet: And what did he get his master's in--education or what?

Loretta: Industrial arts. And the thing was, a couple of the subjects he got on acclamation. Never took them at Pittsburg. His instructor told the higher-ups, "I can't teach him, he can teach me."

Janet: Is that where he did his undergraduate work also? In Pittsburg?

Loretta: He did it at KU and Bradley Polytech and I don't know.

Eric: Where is Bradley Polytech?

Loretta: South side of Peoria, Illinois.

Janet: So he was going there to do college work?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Did he move there for a while?

Loretta: Oh, no. You could board, you know.

Janet: He was living in the dorm?

Loretta: He just had a room there.

Eric: How many years did he do that?

Loretta: Oh, I don't know. Summers. See he was going to school in the summer time.

Janet: That's right, because he was teaching during the school year?

Loretta: What was it, some place I saw that, that article that was in the Spring Hill paper. It said something about supervised or taught the clubs or radio clubs while he was getting his education or degree to teach. He taught and never been enrolled at college at all. Of course, he taught as an assistant as a junior. He skipped his senior year. When he went to teaching he had never been enrolled at a college at all. Now try to do that today.

Janet: Now, let me see if I can understand. When Marshall was in high school, he skipped his senior year?

Loretta: He skipped in the teaching. He was an assistant teacher in his junior year and then his senior year he didn't teach.

Janet: OK. And the following year after he graduated...

Loretta: One winter, after he graduated he went back east. But the next year he went to teaching. He wasn't 21 years old. Never been in a college. There's the evidence of the work he did, right there [pointing at cabinet in kitchen]. That was a Simmon's Salt Company prize. He got that his sophomore year from the Simmon's Salt Company. This was the best in the United States. That tool chest is out in the barn and that is intact. If it isn't intact, it's because you got rid of some of it.

Eric: No, it's all there.

Loretta: All these years it's been used and still intact.

Janet: You said you and Marshall taught the radio by radio classes for about 10 years. Do you know what year you started and stopped?

Loretta: I can't tell you that.

Janet: The thirties or twenties?

Loretta: The twenties.

Janet: Why did you decide to stop?

Loretta: War.

Janet: The war came along?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So that's why you quit?

Loretta: Yes, didn't need it then. That was one thing that was encouraging. You had these radio operators already trained.

Janet: So if you taught for ten years, and World War II stopped it, it must have been in the late twenties that you started?

Loretta: It would had to been. I can't tell you the dates.

Janet: Was there anything else about Marshall's thesis that you wanted to tell?

Loretta: 80,000 words, that pretty near tell's it.

Janet: Pretty wordy.

Eric: How did he write it down? Did he write it down as he was talking or...

Loretta: Write it down afterwards. You're going to have to do that.

Eric: Yes, but I don't think I want to do it like that.

Loretta: When he got through, he had his thesis.

Janet: I know that you told us he was teaching Morse code. That was primarily what he was teaching on the radio. How did you teach that?

Loretta: Had a buzzer, put the signal out on the air. You can't do that now, it's against the law.

Janet: So you put the buzzer out on the air and the students...

Loretta: Signal and buzzer went out on the air instead of the voice.

Janet: So all of your radio lessons were taught through Morse code rather than voice?

Loretta: Both.

Janet: And the 80,000 word thesis that he has goes through lesson by lesson how you taught those?

Eric: I've looked at it.

Janet: And do you know how to operate a radio now?

Eric: No! It's complicated.

Loretta: We had been carrying those on for a number of years. It was backed by the American Relay League. They were those that were sponsoring it.

Janet: I thought of another holiday that we haven't talked about yet.

Loretta: Fourth of July?

Janet: Fourth of July! How did you celebrate that?

Loretta: I generally didn't do very much, but one year Father bought a lot of firecrackers. He got out here in the yard and we got on the porch. Put on his raincoat and did the fireworks. We were getting pretty good size then. That was quite a display, the year he got firecrackers.

Janet: Did you have any neighbors come over and watch the display? Or was it just family?

Loretta: Oh, we just did it for ourselves. No, we weren't allowed to play with the firecrackers.

Janet: You had mentioned one time earlier about having to get done with the harvest, so that you could have ice cream on the Fourth of July. Was that something you always had?

Loretta: Ice cream?

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: That was something we always tried to have on the Fourth of July. Of course, we say get through the harvest, I don't mean like the harvest today. Those days we cut wheat with a binder and shocked it.

Janet: So the Fourth of July was kind of a day of rest?

Loretta: Kind of special, yes.

Eric: Did they ever have a parade in Olathe or Spring Hill?

Loretta: Oh, they had a lot of parades.

Janet: Or picnics?

Loretta: Yes. Maybe the church would have a picnic.

Janet: Did your family ever go?

Loretta: Sometimes.

Janet: Did you go to Olathe or Spring Hill? What do you consider your nearest town?

Loretta: Our nearest town is Bonita.

Janet: OK. Where did you go in Bonita?

Loretta: The courthouse was in Olathe. So we always went to Olathe for business. Spring Hill didn't have businesses pertaining to the population.

Janet: If you all went to some of these picnics, did every family bring their own food or was it a pot-luck kind of thing?

Loretta: Generally had their own meals.

Janet: Did people make speeches and sing songs?

Loretta: No, now you're getting into Old Settlers. You know about Old Settlers?

Janet: Before we jump to Old Settlers, is there anything else about Fourth of July that we need to say?

Loretta: Oh, I don't think so. I think we about hit it all.

Janet: Let's jump to Old Settlers.

Loretta: Well, that's one of the activities. Spring Hill had fairs. That's where I first got acquainted with a fair. I was just a little thing. Marshall got on to it. We had white chickens, white plymouth rocks, white geese and ducks. They had a pretty nice fair down here in Spring Hill. Marshall went to it and took things.

Janet: Was that the county fair?

Loretta: Oh, no, just Spring Hill fair. I remember we took geese down and we took some of Mother's sewing, needle work down. That was my first experience with the fair. Then of course we had Old Settlers up here. Ever since I can remember, you always had a program. I don't know when this started.

Janet: But you guys always went? Did your family always go to the Old Settlers?

Loretta: That's six miles up there. We didn't go to town very often. I never saw a circus until I was grown.

Janet: Where did you see it?

Loretta: Olathe. The Old Settlers is coming up here next week.

Janet: Are you going?

Loretta: You want to look up the Grange tent and get a Grange pup. They're something special from Olathe. I shouldn't say Olathe; it's the Morning Grange, the Grange pups.

Janet: What is a Grange pup, a hotdog?

Loretta: A hotdog dipped in batter and deep fried. Good eating; you have to pay for it!

Janet: So Old Settlers was something your family went to sometimes but not all the time?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: It was just kind of speeches and programs. Did they have a parade?

Loretta: Programs. Generally had a carnival there.

Janet: Did a lot of people go to it? Was it always a big draw?

Loretta: Yes, it always drew a crowd ever since I can remember. I don't know when it started. You'll probably see something about it here in the paper next week.

Janet: Yes, they'll probably have some articles.

Loretta: Then the Gardner fair started up.

Janet: So each of the communities had their own fairs and there was a county fair also?

Loretta: Well, I don't know if any of them are referred to as county fair or not. Well, the Gardner fair, I guess that's our county fair now.

Janet: And you guys sometimes entered chickens or needlework or something?

Loretta: I've taken quite a bit to the Gardner fair, in
these later years.

(continued)

Janet: Win any prizes?

Loretta: There is a blue ribbon laying in there on that stand in the hall.

Janet: What did you win it for?

Loretta: Tatting. That doily I've got on that stand. It's fastened to this doily. Oh, that was in later years. I don't remember when the Gardner fair started up. Don't have a fair down in Spring Hill now, but they had some kind of program here last week.

Janet: You talked about the Grange; I know that was something that you were interested in. Can we talk about that a little bit more?

Loretta: The Grange? My father belonged to the Grange ever since I can remember, to get the insurance. That's all the further he went.

Janet: Just for insurance?

Loretta: Just for insurance.

Janet: Was that health or life insurance or...

Loretta: Real estate as far as I know. I don't think there was any health insurance in it. Real estate insurance.

Janet: But that was his main interest?

Loretta: It was cheaper than the other insurance.

Eric: How did that work? Was there a membership fee? And everybody had membership?

Loretta: I don't know; he just belonged to the Grange is all.

Janet: Was there a chapter? Like, did he belong to the Morning Grange?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Was Morning Grange mostly the Dlathe area? Is that the area it serves?

Loretta: The area right here.

Janet: And did your mom belong too?

Loretta: No.

Janet: Isn't there a woman's part of the Grange?

Loretta: Yes. After Marshall left, I got insurance. I had to join the Grange to get the insurance. I belong to the Cheer'em Up Club; I'm not a regular to the club. They're the ones that will have the Grange Pups up there for sale. The Morning Grange.

Janet: How did the Cheer'em Up Club get a name like that?

Loretta: Morning Grange, I heard how it got it's name. They got together and they couldn't agree on a name. It was after midnight and somebody called it Morning Grange. The Cheer'em Up Club, that was what they were suppose to do for the members.

Janet: So the Cheer'em up Club was only women?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And so they just kind of helped each other out?

Loretta: We did a lot of quilting at that time. The old members are dying off. We did a lot of quilting and sold the quilts. Made lap robes for the nursing homes and hospitals. We did a lot of work.

Janet: So if your club made a quilt and you sold it, how did you sell it? Through a raffle? Or at the fair?

Loretta: Sometimes.

Janet: And then what did you use that money for?

Loretta: Repairs on the building. They owned their building, their lot. They added a kitchen on. This all in later years. I don't know what they did in the early years. Let's see, I think they put metal sheeting on the outside a year or two ago. They're finding a use for it.

They always take a trip in the fall. Last weekend, Saturday and Sunday, they went down to Branson, Missouri. Rained.

Janet: It's been dry all summer and they pick the only weekend that it rains.

Loretta: They got to see the "Shepherd of the Hills" though. Said there was just a couple of little

showers. But said at one time it just poured. They said they brought the rain with them.

Janet: You said you went to the Cheer'em up Club meetings every month?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Were they held in the Grange building?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: What did you do during the monthly meetings?

Loretta: Oh, quilt.

Janet: Visit?

Loretta: Gossiping!

Janet: I was being polite when I said visiting! Were there officers of the Grange?

Loretta: There were officers.

Janet: Were you ever an officer?

Loretta: Stayed away from that!

Eric: Were there membership dues for that club?

Loretta: Yes. Not necessarily for the club, but you had to be a member of the Grange.

Janet: What did the men in the Grange do? Other than having insurance available to the farmers? What else did the Grange do?

Loretta: The men would sometimes work together.

Janet: Are you still a member of the Cheer'em Up Club?

Loretta: Yep.

Janet: That quilt that's hanging up at the top of the steps was made by the Cheer'em Up Club, wasn't it? The one with the presidents' heads on it?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: How many people are in the club today? Do you know? Do you ever see any of them?

Loretta: Twenty or twenty-five, something like that. The older members, they're losing them. These younger ones can't quilt like they used too.

Janet: Did you always quilt? Did your mom and you used to make a lot of quilts? Was that something you did in the winter?

Loretta: Yes, we did quite bit. I gave a whole bunch. I remember one cousin, I sent eight quilts to her. To get rid of them more or less. She had what, 5 or 6 kids. I figured she could use them. I gave some to another cousin. The folks across the street, their house caught on fire. Burned everything. When they got through, they found one of the quilts I sent her. Got it out and washed it up and good as new!

Eric: So quilting was something you did a lot in the winter?

Loretta: Yes. But Mother and I used to work here in the summer time when it was decent.

Janet: Could you make one quilt a year or something like that?

Loretta: Oh, we didn't try anything like that. We just...

Janet: No schedule, right?

Loretta: Just what came up.

Janet: You know how to do a lot of different kinds of hand work, like crocheting and tatting. Is that something your mother taught you?

Loretta: Oh, you can say my mother taught me or I picked it up. Which ever way you want to put it.

Janet: That was something she also did?

Loretta: Oh, yes, she was handy that way. That's what I told you. Marshall was just as good as his parents were.

Janet: Well, it sounds like you picked up quite a bit of stuff, too. Marshall wasn't the only one.

Loretta: I was more or less, hit and miss. Work outside and worked inside.

Eric: You had mentioned this before, about your mom having cancer.

Loretta: Yes. When she was a girl a lump came on her head. She thought it was just a wart. She was always hitting it with a comb. Then when she went to doing all this milking out here, the cow's leg would continually rub on that. You know the results. She learned about taking it off by plaster [?] by old doctor over here at Stanley. And she went to him and he took it off. He said now that will never come back. He was on his death bed and it did come back. He didn't get it all out. So she found out there was a doctor in the city that took it off. But if that had ever grown through the skull, they couldn't have done anything for it. The thing was large.

Janet: And it started out as a wart?

Loretta: Started out as a wart on her head.

Janet: But then it developed into a cancerous tumor?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: How old was she when all that happened?

Loretta: Oh, about the time I got out of high school.

Janet: That's when she had it removed the second time?

Loretta: Yes. She had to make two hitches at it. The old fellow died really before he finished.

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: That created quite an ordeal.

Janet: How about you, was there ever anything other than childhood illnesses wrong with you?

Loretta: I had TB, spent six months in bed one winter. That's where I say I got this arthritis. Doctor don't agree with me, but I believe it!

Janet: How old were you when you had TB?

Loretta: But I got sinus that winter. You know sinus can create a lot of problems.

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: And always figured that was responsible for my getting TB or...

Janet: Well, how old were you? Because TB used to be a pretty scary thing.

Loretta: I mean arthritis, that's why I always think it was responsible. I had TB when I think I was a baby. Because over at Eureka, there was a neighbor that said to Mother, "That frail, delicate child-- you'll never raise her." I've heard Mother tell that. When we were over at Eureka I was under five years of age. I didn't break down until I was 23.

Janet: Oh, you were 23 when you were in bed for six months?

Loretta: Yes, that's when my sinus started up. After that I had arthritis.

Janet: So you were in bed for six months trying to get over this TB? Well, TB was a pretty scary disease at that time, wasn't it?

Loretta: Yes, really before that.

Janet: How did they treat that? What did they do?

Loretta: Rest.

Janet: Rest?

Loretta: Rest and care. You see it was cold and it irritated my sinuses.

Eric: Did you have to sleep down here then?

Loretta: I slept like I'm doing down here now.

Janet: So in this room down here [sitting room], you had your bed?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: Did your family pretty much have to wait on you?

Loretta: Yes, they helped me. They had to wait on me.

Janet: Because you literally couldn't get out of bed and you were just supposed to rest?

Loretta: Yes, yes. I couldn't get out of bed. I think most of the time they took the food into me. I got out of bed enough to keep walking. I don't like laying in bed all the time.

Janet: Well, let's see your dad had polio, you had TB, your mom had cancer... what about Marshall?

Loretta: Marshall had an awful sinus condition. He could hardly keep it under control these later years. I can tell you when he got that. He got that when he was three and a half years old. He went back east in the winter time. The doctors couldn't do much.

Eric: He got poison ivy!

Loretta: He got poison ivy. How about you?

Eric: Yes, I get poison ivy.

Loretta: No, I used to have to go kill poison ivy.

Janet: Because Marshall was so allergic to it?

Loretta: Yes, and I wasn't.

Janet: Another holiday we haven't talked about is Easter. Did you celebrate Easter in any special way?

Loretta: Oh, yes. We had an Easter egg hunt out here once in awhile. When we were little, but when we grew up we didn't.

Janet: Were they hard boiled eggs that your mom had colored?

Loretta: Yes, we used to help her color.

Eric: How did you color them?

Loretta: Just like you do today.

Eric: Well, did you buy stuff at the store to put in the water?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: You did?

Loretta: But you could use dye or onions or walnuts. We never did too much, just at a certain age there.

Janet: Was there any kind of special candy that she made for Easter?

Loretta: Oh, no.

Janet: That was just Christmas?

Loretta: Yes. One Easter I do remember, across the road here down by the creek, there was an old broken down tree. And Marshall fixed that up and we put the eggs down there. In the great outdoors.

Janet: Did you have Eater baskets?

Loretta: Maybe at school, but never at home. You know the foundation for this house, is still out there across from the trailer. Straight north there. It's grown up there now. But when we came here, it was all just like it had been dug out.

Janet: Across 183rd Street or on the south side of 183rd Street?

Loretta: Across the street. On the north side of the road. Didn't you know this foundation was dug out over there?

Janet: I don't think I did. You quarried this stone out of a natural outcrop?

Loretta: Yes, there at the creek.

Eric: Bill McCabe did that?

Loretta: Yes, I guess he did. I never heard any stories about it though. The creek runs around the edge of the rock outcrop. And you talked about putting dirt in this swamp down here which you've never seen. The house is sitting on the rock, that's the reason the houses are sitting on the rock. I told Eric there is a rock strata that goes southwest across here. And the train over here vibrates it.

Janet: That's right, I remember you telling that story. About some of the things falling out of the window. And light bulbs jiggling loose.

Loretta: Jump off the windows or something.

Eric: Do you want to talk about politics? I know you said you didn't have much but...

Loretta: The only thing about politics, Father never worked for any candidate or anything like that. But in later years after I got so I could manage to pull the car out on the road, one year... well, these were dirt roads then, you know what they were. It was raining, sleeting and snowing on election day. I tried to persuade him to stay home, but no sir, he was going if he had to walk. That's the way those old folks thought about it.

Janet: Determined to vote.

Loretta: Yes. He had to vote if he had to walk.

Janet: Did he have real strong political feelings for either party?

Loretta: No, he was a Democrat. But nothing special. He would vote for the man, that was what he was after.

Eric: What about your mom?

Loretta: Oh, she wasn't as interested in it. But I never forgot him because I tried to persuade him to stay home. But no sir, he was going if he had to walk!

Janet: So your mom wasn't very interested in the women's suffrage movement or the effort to get the vote for the women?

Loretta: No.

Eric: Was that a big deal to you?

Loretta: Women voting? I don't know that it meant so much to me. I more or less grew up with it. More or less grew up with the idea and everything.

Eric: You've talked about Olathe mayors that you knew.

Loretta: The mayors? Hal Robinson lived with us when he celebrated his 14th birthday. And he was mayor of Olathe at one time.

Janet: Why was he living with you?

Loretta: Hired help. A neighbor boy. I suppose he lived a mile down the road. I can't think of Hartley's name. The family lived down here along the railroad track. And he was mayor, I think for one term. But talking about Hal Robinson, brings up another thing. We used to take the cattle up to 175th Street, Marshall used too. To a pasture about a half mile down the road. He would get on the old black horse and I would get on behind him. Imagine taking cattle down to 175th Street now! And across from the pasture lived an old couple. We used to go over there once in awhile. They would give us candy that was free.

Eric: Were there other things in the community that you were involved in? Like schools and businesses?

Where did your mom buy stuff, at the grocery store? Or tools they needed?

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Loretta: Well, as soon as Marshall got to drive the car into the city, he learned in the city. He went to Sweeney Automotive & Electrical School. We used to go down to Sears & Roebucks; they had an outlet store there. We used to go down there and get supplies. Of course, we would go to the grocery store up here.

Janet: Where was the Sears outlet store?

Loretta: Fifteenth street, I guess it was on. Do you know?

Janet: Yes, I now where that is located.

Loretta: What was it 15th and...I don't remember.

Janet: It's on the east side of town. Like 15th and Brooklyn, something like that.

Loretta: I don't recall. Anyway we used to go down there once in awhile. We would load up with groceries then.

Janet: So you would get groceries at Sears?

Loretta: At that time. They had a grocery store.

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Janet: I didn't know they ever sold groceries.

Eric: What kinds of things did you have to buy when you were going to the grocery store?

Loretta: We didn't buy bread. But everything else. Bought your flour, coffee, and sugar. Of course, flour and sugar were your important things.

Eric: Did you ever make your own flour out here?

Loretta: No.

Janet: But you did make your own bread?

Loretta: Oh, yes, we baked bread.

Janet: How often did you bake bread, every day or three times a week?

Loretta: A time or two during the week.

Janet: Did you make a lot of corn bread too?

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Loretta: No, not a lot. But we made corn bread, muffins, and pancakes. We made everything. You don't go to town so often when you're six miles away and you have to drive over.

Janet: Well, if you're going up to Sears on 15th Street, that was quite a little trip.

Loretta: After Marshall got to driving a car. That would be after he graduated from high school.

Janet: Were there any businesses in Olathe that you always shopped at? Do you remember any of them?

Loretta: Farmers Union, Hodges Brothers in Olathe.

Janet: Their lumber store?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: What was the Farmers Union? Was that the bank?

Loretta: The mill. There were two mills in Olathe. Hadley's and Farmers Union.

Janet: Where did you buy clothing? Was there a clothing store?

Loretta: We bought our clothing at Sears & Roebuck.

Janet: Did you do that through the mail?

Loretta: Yes. Oh, yes, I don't know what Mother would have done. It saved a lot of time.

Eric: Did she ever do sewing? Or just special things?

Loretta: She sewed everything either one of us wore.

Janet: I thought you said you bought your clothes from Sears. Did you buy fabric from Sears? Or clothing?

Loretta: Coats and things.

Janet: Oh, but your mom sewed all your shirts and dresses.

Loretta: She did all the sewing for both of us.

Janet: Did you order shoes from Sears? Or was there a store in Olathe?

Loretta: Shoes and overshoes there. That's something kids don't know anything about is overshoes.

Janet: Did I understand right, that the desk is one that you and Marshall gave to your dad? Was that ordered through Sears? Was it a Christmas gift? Or why did you buy that?

Loretta: It was a Christmas present for him. And I slipped up and said.

Eric: You let it slip...

Loretta: Before Christmas.

Janet: You let the cat out of the bag?

Loretta: Oh, he knew anyway. He had to go up to Bonita and get it.

(laughter)

Janet: Do you remember what year that was? How old you were?

Loretta: When he was just starting the dairy. He used that wash stand upstairs for his desk before. And it got so small. He wanted a desk. Mother thought of getting this one.

Janet: So you bought this desk when you started dairying out here at this farm? So you bought that in the early 1910's?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: So you bought the desk for your dad so he could keep track of all his dairying.

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And was the stove also ordered through Sears?

Loretta: Oh, yes. Both of the stoves came from Sears.

Janet: The cooking stove and...

Loretta: Not the heater [in the kitchen], but the heater in the room there [sitting room]. Everything around here came from Sears.

Janet: So they got a lot of your business?

Eric: I was curious about church down here. Can you tell us where you went to church?

Loretta: We never went to church until we came to Eureka. Papa was president of Sunday School. Mama had the kindergarten, of course.

Eric: And that was a Baptist Church in Eureka?

Loretta: Baptist Church.

Eric: Was that Southern Baptist or...

Loretta: I don't know. Went over to Olathe and joined that Baptist Church, that's what became of them. They sold the building over there. I was telling Eric the other day about the lumber and windows in that radio room, all came out of that church over there.

Janet: Yes, I think you told us that last time we talked.

Loretta: And they got too far over there. Then we went down to Ocheltree, and I think it was a Congregational Church we went to for a couple of years. Then they got the Methodist Church down in Spring Hill, we went down there then. We went there for a number of years. Oh, we were both going to Olathe then, they changed their membership to Olathe, but we never did anything. The Methodist Church in Olathe. But the folks weren't too radical about what denomination they were working with. But Mother would always say she didn't feel at home unless she was in the Methodist Church.

Janet: Oh!

Eric: Do you remember the dates when you or Marshall were baptized?

Loretta: We weren't baptized, we never joined the church.

Eric: Were you baptized as infants?

Loretta: No, not that I ever heard of anyway.

Eric: What about Ina, did she ever belong to a church or...

Loretta: I think she did, but I couldn't tell about that.

Eric: Would you say that reading the Bible or studying about that was important to your family?

Loretta: Oh, sure.

Eric: But they just didn't feel that the church was...

Loretta: Neglected too much. I don't remember, my memory isn't too good; Marshall could quote the Bible. Just from contact, you might say; of course he was older when he went over to Eureka.

Janet: When kids were dating, when you were in high school, what did you do for dates? How did kids court at that time?

Loretta: What?

Janet: How was the courting, the dating at that time?

Loretta: What did we do? We'd go to basketball games and football games and, of course, we never danced, but a lot of kids danced.

Eric: You say you never danced. Meaning you weren't allowed or you just didn't want to?

Loretta: When they had dances in gym class I used to take that. But, you get out here and work on these acres a while...you dance...

Janet: You dance in the fields!

Loretta: Dance doesn't appeal to you. You get out here and shock a field of wheat, dancing doesn't appeal to you!

Janet: So, going to some of the activities at the high school were some of the popular things to do?

Loretta: That's what we did most. We had a little contact when we was going to church in Spring Hill. We used to go down there and had a little contact but not much. Not like they do today; we didn't have to call our pal every time we turned around.

Janet: Did you ever have any special boyfriends or anything?

Loretta: Oh, yes, more or less.

Janet: Can you think of anything else you wanted to ask?

Eric: That's all of this list. Do you want to ask some of these?

Janet: Are you getting tired, Loretta? Can you talk a while longer or are you pretty worn out?

Loretta: I'm not horse yet.

Janet: Okay, let's see. Did you or Marshall ever have any nicknames when you were children? Did you ever call each other anything or did your mom or dad call you any special names?

Loretta: Mom called me "pet."

Janet: Pet?

Loretta: I don't know if Marshall ever got called a nickname.

Janet: Did you have a nickname for Marshall?

Loretta: No.

Janet: So that was just kind of a little affectionate term your mom used?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: Did she call you that all the time?

Loretta: I think most of the time she did.

Eric: Even when you were older?

Loretta: It kind of died out then, when I got into high school.

Eric: In the other oral history, there was something you talked about, your mom and dad taking sleigh rides. Maybe that was while they were dating in Maryland?

Loretta: That was when they were back east. They used to have sleigh rides back there. And one of her brothers had fancy horses; they used to go around everybody that was on the road. They thought that was great.

Janet: Were sleigh rides popular around here also? Did people do sleigh riding much?

Loretta: That was our only means of transportation around here, not necessarily one of pleasure.

Janet: Did people do things like ice-skating or anything like that in the winter?

Loretta: Oh, yes. We had many skating parties out here on the pond. Raise a brush pile and set it on fire. Go out on the ice and skate. For a number of years we'd have a skating parties every year.

Janet: That sounds like it would be a lot of fun.

Loretta: That brush pile made some nice light and you would keep warm by it.

Janet: One of the things we have talked about in bits and pieces during several of these oral histories is how this house has changed. And I wondered if we could just kind of talk about that again. Because you were telling us how this back porch was one of the first things your father did to change the house.

Loretta: When we came here, there was a big tree on each side of that summer kitchen. Big old soft maple, hollow inside and Father about had a spell for fear it would fall down on the house. And he had trimmed the limbs and later cut it down. That just left that sun boiling down on the south side of the house. He put that porch on and...

Janet: So that would be pretty soon after you moved into the house?

Loretta: He put the walk in down there. What's the date on that well curb, 1915? I always forget that.

Eric: Are you talking about the cistern?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: I don't know.

Loretta: I think the date is 1915 on that.

Janet: So, that was done at the same time as the porch was put on?

Loretta: Probably done about that time.

Janet: Okay.

Loretta: They didn't do everything at once.

Janet: Yes.

Loretta: One thing at a time.

Janet: So after they put on this back porch, what was the next change that they made to the house?

Loretta: Probably that bay window, that room in there was so small. The hired man, they used that as a living room of course, in the winter time. And with a hired man in there, Mother would go in there and there was never any place for her to sit. And Father's sister put a bay window about that large on the front of their house and that just struck Mother. That was the very thing to put on there.

Janet: It works with the house very well; it's a nice addition to the house. So, in the winter....

Loretta: Yes, you might say they had an artistic talent. But what they had has adapted to the house.

Janet: So in the winter you always kept the parlor closed? And just didn't use it at all in the winter time. Because it was too cold, not even at Christmas or anything; it just wasn't used in the winter?

Loretta: There was no stovepipe in there, an old fireplace. The folks who lived here before used that as a living room. All the heat in that room was a fire place. They had a big old cook stove out here.

Janet: How did they use this room, your sitting room...

Loretta: That was the folks' bedroom and the youngest child slept with them.

Eric: And the rest of their 11 kids slept upstairs?

Janet: That's right; I forgot they had 11 children!

Loretta: The rest slept upstairs. There is some pipe holes up there. I wondered if they had stoves. But they had a big old cook stove here in the kitchen, Mother said.

Janet: The next thing you did was to add this bay window both here and one that is up in the bedroom. Just added the bay window all the way up the side of the house. And was the basement dug out there at the same time?

Loretta: Under the bay window? Yes. That was put in there when they put the bay window up.

Janet: But the rest of the basement was all part of the original construction? Or was some added on?

Loretta: South side. Marshall added that south side here. Oh, not too many years ago.

Janet: So the south side, the basement that is right below the kitchen, the south part of it was added on fairly recently? Like maybe in the sixties?

Loretta: About 1930.

Janet: Oh, 1930!

Loretta: Yes, that's recently!

Janet: Okay!

Loretta: They dug that out in the summer time. That was a good deal. That foundation started to cave in on them. He had a neighbor boy with him; he wasn't a boy, he was a man then. But he could work. Before the cellar was dug out, the basement, the front porch was put on.

Janet: So the back porch first, then the front porch was the second thing? Before the bay window?

Loretta: The bay window was put on before the front porch. Then the front porch was put on.

Janet: What kind of porch did the house have before you put on this front porch? Was it just a stoop kind of thing?

Loretta: Just a regular, like they were using in those days. Just a porch.

Janet: So you wanted to put on one that wrapped around?

Loretta: Yes. Mother never liked that blank side where the stairs go up, there is no window. It was her idea to wrap it around. Then when Marshall wanted the radio, of course we had the radio sitting right here [in the kitchen], where this doorway is. Mother gave the idea of putting that radio room on there.

Janet: Before you added the radio room, did the porch extend all the way to here or did it stop...

Loretta: Where it stops now. I have thought that that radio room could have been extended into here [beyond kitchen window] and made into a utility room. But if that was done, that would take this window away from the kitchen. The house has no cupboards, built in cupboards, no closets, no nothing. It's a square house period.

Janet: That's right, you don't have storage space.

Loretta: No, there is no storage. That's the reason we use the summer kitchen over there.

Janet: For storage. Up in your bedroom there are a couple of small closets, aren't there?

Loretta: This one up here on the east side, that was put in there with the bathroom. Marshall put that in with the bathroom. But the one in between the two bedrooms, between the chimney and on over to the wall, was original.

Janet: That's the one that is real narrow or real shallow?

Loretta: That's the only closet, you might say, in the whole house.

Eric: What about the one in the front bedroom?

Loretta: Oh, we never called that a closet. That was a room, it has a window in it. We always called that a dressing room or something. When...oh, can't think of the name, lived up there. Well, when Ryan lived up in the front room upstairs, Father would build this house that used to be on the hill, gone long ago. That little dressing room as I said, they used for their kitchen.

Janet: Now who lived up there?

Loretta: Ryan.

Janet: Ryan? When was this happening?

Loretta: When that house that they took away from up here was built.

Janet: What year was that?

Loretta: Now you're asking questions.

Janet: I didn't know that you ever had somebody living up...

Loretta: We didn't. This is before we came here.

Janet: This is before you came. This is when Ed Smith had the house?

Loretta: I don't know who was living in it. Could have been Ed Smith or there was another family in here for a year or two.

Janet: Who was the family with eleven children?

Eric: Holcombs.

Loretta: They lived here before we did. They lived here from 1900 to 1909.

Janet: So sometime before you bought it, they had a family... A family or just a man?

Loretta: Probably a man and woman.

Janet: Living up in that front bedroom and they used the dressing room as their kitchen?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: As their kitchen?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: That's a tiny little room for a kitchen!

Loretta: When you get it cleaned out it's a lot larger than the kitchens you find in some of these apartment houses. That's pretty good size.

Janet: Let's see, we've got the back porch added, then the bay window and the front porch is wrapped around. Then the last change was adding this radio room. Is that right?

Loretta: Yes, you can pretty near date that about [19] 35.

Janet: The original basement to the house was just under this section here.

Loretta: Front half of the house.

Janet: Then the bay window part was dug out when you were doing the bay window addition? Then Marshall dug out this south part in the thirties, you think?

Loretta: Yes. He dug it out to put that water pump in. That could be in thirties. This radio set was built in [19] 37. I don't know when the power line was coming through. The power line came through in about [19] 35 or something. That was when we got that water pump.

Janet: When he was digging out the south part, the bay window, did you carry that dirt out the cellar door?

Loretta: Through dirt up over the bank and carried it out.

Janet: Was that cellar door used? Did you use the cellar for storing vegetables?

Loretta: Yes. If Eric put his pears down there they'll keep longer.

Eric: I didn't put any pears down there.

Loretta: If you would they would keep longer.

Janet: If you're not going to can them!

Loretta: Is there any out there on the old tree?

Eric: Yes, there are quite a few.

Loretta: Better get somebody to can you a few jars of pears.

Eric: I don't know if I could talk my mom into it.

Janet: Maybe she could teach you to do it!

Eric: What about the bathroom, when did you put that in?

Loretta: Marshall put that in. Had to put that in after the power line came through.

Janet: So after [19] 37?

Loretta: After [19] 35, when the power line came through. See the water pump ran the bathroom.

Janet: Has the house always been painted white?

Loretta: Since we've been here.

Janet: Always white, with green shutters?

Loretta: Yes.

Janet: And the woodwork that is in the parlor, that is the original paint?

Loretta: That's the original paint. Now if you're an artist you can tell me what kind that is, I have been told.

Janet: I think I've heard too, but I can't remember.

Eric: What do you mean, that's the original paint? Is that something Bill McCabe put on?

Loretta: It was painted when the house was built. Bill McCabe didn't put it on, no. He hired someone to do it. Swedish or Norwegian or something like that. I've been told, I don't remember.

Janet: The fireplace that's in the parlor is the only fireplace ever in the house?

Loretta: Yes.

Eric: We had talked about Bill McCabe before and when we were out in the barn you told me some stories about him. About what he had in the barn. Can you tell us that again?

Loretta: I don't know what I told you.

Eric: OK, I don't remember all of it either. But you told me where he had his work bench.

Loretta: Yes, there on the north side of the barn on the west wall.

Eric: In the southwest corner of this north room. Who told you that and the other thing?

Loretta: I remember Bill Post, a neighbor down here, who was a boy and worked for Bill McCabe. Bill McCabe would fill himself full of water at noon and work harvest all afternoon and never drink a glass of water. Said he couldn't do that; he had to take a jug.

Janet: The cabin that is over here, is that supposed to be the original house where Bill lived first?

Loretta: Yes, that's an original house that was on this place. You should preserve it. That was down here in front of the barn.

Janet: So it stood on the north side of the barn. Why did you move it or who moved it?

Loretta: Ed Smith moved it.

Janet: Do you know why?

Loretta: Because it was in front of the barn.

Janet: How did you use that building later?

Loretta: Chicken house, before we had a chicken house. Hen house.

Eric: Now who told you that was a cabin from Bill McCabe or how do you know?

Loretta: Oh, neighbors talk.

Janet: So he lived in that house until this house was built? That's quite a jump--to go from that little bitty structure to this big house. That's just quite a jump in size.

Loretta: Well, the story is the house that used to be up here, Bonita, across west of the railroad track, was a big, high ceiling, two story house. Was built by his brother. Friends used to say he was a bachelor and he didn't need a house. The story is they more or less worked him into building this house. Just ribbing him into it.

Janet: So was Bill was never married?

Loretta: Never married.

Janet: This was quite a show place then, for him to build a house this size.

Loretta: It wasn't very large compared to now.

Janet: Still for a single man, it was quite a lot of space.

Eric: When did your dad put the siding on the cabin out there? Because it's the same siding that's on the sheds and barns.

Loretta: He never did anything to it.

Janet: Did you alter it--take out windows or anything like that?

Loretta: The windows on the east side, I don't know how they were. But there were windows on the east side. There's windows on the south side. I think that window on the east side Father put in there himself. But I know those on the south side, they had the frames in them.

Janet: I wondered if you ever changed the building.

Loretta: No, the building is just as it was. The stairs are just as good as they were then. You don't know what I mean by stairs.

Janet: The ladder?

Eric: There is something, when Bill McCabe died, the home went to the home of little sisters or something like that. Do you know anything about that?

Loretta: How many brothers did he have? I forget how many children were in the family? Six? I imagine when he died they thought they were going to get this good 80 acres with new buildings on it. Come out he had willed it to this other organization.

Janet: Why did they get rid of it then? Did they sell it so they could get some money?

Loretta: Get money.

Eric: What organization?

Loretta: I can't tell you that.

Janet: The Little Sisters of the Poor?

Eric: Something out here says the home of the Little Sisters. Is that a Catholic charity?

Loretta: Yes. I can't remember. There is something in the cabin, isn't there?

Eric: I think so.

Janet: So he built the cabin first and then the peg barn?

Loretta: I guess he built that peg barn before he built this house. If he lived in the cabin he built it first.

Janet: This house would have been the third building?

Loretta: Probably so.

Janet: Before his untimely death digging the pond!

Eric: Tell me about the coffin that is in the south barn. There is a big box that has to be a coffin because it has handles on it. Six feet long.

Janet: I think it is a coffin.

Eric: In the south barn...

Janet: Up in the loft.

Eric: On the south side.

Janet: It sure looks like a coffin.

Eric: The organ is on this side and in the middle is this big box. It's empty.

Loretta: I don't know what it is. Probably used for something. It isn't a coffin though.

Eric: For a tent?

Janet: You can use it for Halloween! No, we were really up there and we thought it was a coffin.

Eric: It has big wooden handles on the side. It's up there with a whole bunch of other wooden crates.

Loretta: There's an old organ up there.

Eric: Yes, that's on this side. That box is in the middle of that loft. Then on the other end is a whole bunch of wooden crates that I guess radio equipment came in.

Loretta: I guess they've been put up there to store. Probably radio equipment or something.

*I went to Olathe High School riding
in the back seat of Marshall's Harley
Davison motorcycle - everyday that
the weather was good.*